

# 708240

IND

IND-E-1

IND-E-2

**School Ceremonies and Observances  
Religious and Patriotic Exercises & Religious Instruction**

All principals shall comply with Provincial Statutes and Regulations concerning religious and patriotic exercises as defined in the Public School's Act, Section 84(8).

Under Section 84 (8) of the Public Schools' Act, parents may petition the School Board to hold religious exercises for their children. The responsibility lies with parents to collect names to a petition.

**Religious Exercises:**

The following procedures will govern the petitioning process:

1. Schools **will co-operate** with parents by:
  - (a) providing space at the school to set up a table for distribution of information to parents or guardians
  - (b) providing on request, in the school newsletter, the name and telephone number of persons organizing the petition
  
2. Schools **are not permitted** to
  - (a) promote the petition in the school newsletter except that provided under 1(b) above
  - (b) distribute information to homes with pupils except that provided under 1(b) above
  - (c) provide lists of pupils names or addresses
  - (d) provide paper or photocopying services without cost
  
3. If parents are wishing to arrange a petition, they are requested to:
  - (a) contact the principal for
    - i) copies of the standard petition form
    - ii) copies of the Deputy Minister's Guidelines

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- (b) discuss with the principal arrangements for distribution of information as noted in 1(b) above.
4. Petitions are required annually, on a school-by-school basis.
  5. When the necessary number of names have been collected, the parent is requested to share the petition with the principal of the school for verification of student population prior to presenting it to the Superintendent/CEO.
  6. The parent shall then present the petition to the Superintendent/CEO for approval on behalf of the Board.
  7. After the Superintendent/CEO approves the petition, the contact person on the petition, and the principal of the school concerned, will be notified. The principal of the school shall contact parents about arrangements in the school for the holding of religious exercises.
  8. Religious exercises in the schools shall consist of the form, and use materials, specified by the parents who initiated the petition. This information shall be clearly defined in the petition.

Exhibit IND-E-1, provides a standard Petition Form for requesting religious exercises, and Division regulations regarding the conduct of religious exercises.

### **Religious Instruction:**

The Board is required to pass a by-law authorizing religious instruction if a petition is presented. The parents or guardians of at least 10 children attending a school having one or two classrooms must sign the petition. For a school having three or more classrooms the parents or guardians of at least 25 children attending the school must sign the petition.

Exhibit IND-E-2, provides a standard Petition Form for requesting religious instruction, and Division regulations regarding the conduct of religious instruction.

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