

# Administrative Procedure 212

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Background

The Board of Education values inclusiveness as a celebration and acceptance of all people. Prairie South Schools supports educational activities related to religious and spiritual practices that reflect the cultural diversity of our communities and supports an environment that is positive and spiritually safe. The Board of Education acknowledges the diversity of values and practices of students and parents of all faiths.

Notwithstanding the above, the school division recognizes:

1. Hutterian Brethren practices regarding the education of their children,
2. The teaching of Aboriginal cultures and beliefs, and
3. The constitutional rights regarding the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and religious instruction.

### Procedures

1. Subject to the provisions of *The Education Act, 1995*, teaching is to occur in an inclusive manner. Inclusiveness is to apply to all curriculum and extra-curricular activities including preparation for and involvement in all school concerts, programs and school community events.

#### 2. Opening Activities

- 2.1 Opening activities are to be inclusive and may include: opportunities for personal reflection through a moment of silence; writing in a personal journal; students sharing a thought for the day which may include diverse religious, spiritual or cultural readings; and, or the singing of "O Canada".
- 2.2 Pursuant to the provisions of the constitution (Saskatchewan Act, 1905), the Board may also direct that the Lord's Prayer be recited during opening activities.
  - 2.2.1 The Board shall complete a review process before directing the recitation of the Lord's Prayer in a school community.
  - 2.2.2 The Board shall undertake the review process in a school community when requested to do so by the School Community Council.

#### 3. Religious Instruction

- 3.1.1 Pursuant to the provisions of the constitution (Saskatchewan Act, 1905), the Board may permit that religious instruction take place during the last half hour of the school day to a maximum of 2.5 hours per week.

- 3.1.2 The Board shall complete a review process before permitting that religious instruction take place in a school community.
- 3.1.3 The Board shall undertake the review process in a school community when requested to do so by the School Community Council.

#### **4. Indigenous Teachings**

The role of indigenous cultures is recognized in Saskatchewan, and schools are supported in developing activities and programs designed to educate students concerning aboriginal teachers including culture, beliefs and spiritual practices.

References: Sections 85, 87, 175, 182, 184 Education Act

July 19, 2019