

NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL FLAGS AND ANTHEM IN OUR SCHOOLS

*PROGRAMS & STUDENT SERVICES 200
National/Provincial Flags and Anthem In Our
Schools: PSS 204
Adoption Date: October 25, 1999
Revised: April 28, 2014*

Scope

This policy applies to all schools under the jurisdiction of Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

Purpose

To provide guidelines regarding the display of our national/provincial flags and singing of our National Anthem.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board that principals and staff take every opportunity to foster pride in Canada based on appreciation of its qualities and values as a nation and as a responsible member of the international community.

Cross Reference

Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board Mission Statement

Authorization

This policy has been authorized by the Board under motions number 99-355.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Director of Programs and Student Services to ensure that this policy and administrative procedures are implemented.

Implementation

The Coordinator of School Services will implement the policy and administrative procedures.

Procedures

Schools are required to display the national and provincial flags and to provide students with opportunities to sing the national anthem.

- 1) The flags of Canada and Nova Scotia are to be displayed by schools in accordance with the following requirements:
 - a) The flag of Canada is to be flown from the school's flag mast during school hours each school day and should be displayed in addition within or near the school's main entrance.
 - b) The flag of Nova Scotia is to be either:
 - i) flown from a mast (separate from that used for the national flag); or
 - ii) displayed in a prominent position within or near to the school's main entrance.
 - c) The national and provincial flags are to be displayed prominently at assemblies and in other locations as considered possible and appropriate by the principals and staff.
2. Information regarding national flags and anthems is to be provided to students as follows:
 - a) Elementary students are to be provided annually with instruction in each of the following:
 - i) Lyrics and meaning of the anthem "O Canada" and its status as the official national anthem of Canada; and,
 - ii) Explanation of the significance of the national flag.
 - b) Secondary students are to be provided with instruction in the topics listed above, subsection 2(a) as considered necessary and/or desirable by the principal and staff.
 - c) For the purpose of meeting the requirements of subsections 2(a) and 2(b), the language of instruction is to be as follows:
 - i) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) (iii) below, instruction in the English version is to be provided to all students.
 - ii) Instruction in the French version may be provided instead of the English version to students in French immersion programs.
 - iii) Instruction in the French/Gaelic/Mi'Kmaq version may be provided in addition to the English version in accordance with decisions made by the principal in consultation with staff, and when appropriate, students and parents.
3. The following guidelines apply to the use of "O Canada" in school assemblies and ceremonies;

- a) “O Canada” should be played and sung at the commencement of school sponsored assemblies and ceremonies.
 - b) In accordance with decisions made by the principal in consultation with staff and, when appropriate, students and parents may sing “O Canada” in the English or French language or in a combined English-French, English-Gaelic, English-Mi’kmaq version.
4. Students will be excused from activities relating to patriotic exercises in accordance with the following provisions:
- a) Exemption from participation will be granted provided:
 - i) that a written request is received from a parent/guardian;
 - ii) that a request provides a reason which the principal considers valid.
 - b) When exemption from participation is granted, the students will be permitted to:
 - i) leave the classroom or place where the instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises; or
 - ii) remain in the classroom or place without taking part in the instruction or exercises.
 - c) If a student is to be excused for a period of time which the principal considers lengthy (e.g., instruction relating to the anthem), an alternative learning activity is to be provided for that student.
 - d) Every effort is to be made to respect the dignity of students who are excused from participation in activities relating to patriotic exercises.

Associated Forms

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Director of Programs and Student Services within three years from the authorized date.

Distribution

Board Members
All Policy Manual Holders