

NATIONAL ANTHEM IN SCHOOLS

Background

The Division believes that an important component of citizenship education is knowledge of and respect for Canada's National Anthem. The definition of basic education in Alberta includes the statement that "students will understand personal and community values and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship," and that a basic education will allow students to "respect the cultural diversity and common values of Canada."

Procedures

1. Each School Administrator(s) will make arrangements for the playing or singing of Canada's National Anthem at or near the beginning of each school day.
2. While the National Anthem is being played or sung, all members of the school community who are present within the school at that time will be expected to stand and demonstrate their respect for the Anthem. Those persons who are forbidden by their religious denomination from meeting this expectation will be exempted.
3. Students in elementary schools will be taught the words of the National Anthem, and all students will be helped to understand that demonstrating respect for the Anthem is an important responsibility of Canadian citizenship.

Reference: Section 26, 50, 60, 61, 113, School Act
Ministerial Order 004/98

Amended: October 2017