



Administrative Procedures

AP-605 SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION	Date of implementation: Fall 2006 Date of update: Fall 2019
	Related Administrative Procedures: AP-603 Citizenship Education

Purpose: To guide schools and stakeholders in spiritual, religious and cultural aspects of education in schools and the classroom.

Background:

The Division subscribes to the fundamental principle that all persons are equal in dignity and rights. The development and implementation of policies, practices and programs shall reflect and promote these principles and provide an environment which promotes and fosters the development of acceptance and equality of opportunities for all students and staff members.

All people enjoy certain fundamental rights and freedoms regardless of religion, creed, marital status, family status, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, colour, ancestry, nationality, place of origin, race or perceived race, receipt of public assistance or gender identity. The Division supports the principle that all people should have these rights respected.

This is in keeping with the spirit and intent of Articles 1 and 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

Recognizing that prejudice and discrimination do exist in Canadian society, Prairie Spirit School Division supports educational activities related to religious and spiritual practices that reflect the cultural diversity of our communities and support an environment that is positive and spiritually safe. This acknowledges the diversity of values and practices of students and parents of all faiths.

Procedures:

Subject to the provisions of *The Education Act, 1995*, teaching is to occur in an inclusive manner. Inclusiveness is to apply to all curricular and extra-curricular activities, including preparation for and involvement in all school concerts, sports, programs and school community events. Prairie Spirit schools will provide students with opportunities to develop positive attitudes toward all people.

Student participation in events conducted before and after school is voluntary. Students, parents and/or community members must seek and obtain permission from the school principal to host activities at the school that are specific to their particular needs, provided that such activities are supportive of the values and goals of the Division.

1) Opening Activities

Opening activities are to teach, support and encourage the principles and goals of the Division and the provincial curriculum (*Lifelong Learners, Sense of Self, Community and Place, Engaged Citizens*). Activities are to be inclusive and may include:

- a) Opportunities for quiet personal reflection;
- b) Writing in a personal journal;
- c) The singing of "O Canada"; and/or
- d) The recitation of Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

2) Cultural/Spiritual Instruction

School activities are to acknowledge and reflect the cultural diversity of the larger community. Two fundamental principles will provide guidance:

- a) No activity will be offered for the purpose of indoctrination, including, but not limited to, school opening exercises;
- b) No religious or spiritual belief is given primacy during instructional time, except during a provincial course that may be offered as an elective (i.e. Christian Ethics).

3) Indigenous Teachings

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

4) Concerts

There is recognition that the repertoire for musical selections has a bias towards Christian beliefs. These musical selections may be used for special performances during the Christmas season.

5) Hutterian and Associate Schools

Hutterian schools and Associate schools would be considered registered independent schools and would follow *The Registered Independent Schools Regulations*.

References:

[United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

[Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)

[Saskatchewan Human Rights Code](#)

[*The Education Act, 1995*](#)

[*The Registered Independent Schools Regulations*](#)

[First Nations and Métis Education](#)