



**Department: Superintendent of Schools**  
**Section: System Administration**

School principals and staff will 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.

1. Schools are required to provide students with opportunities to sing the national anthem on a daily basis.
2. Elementary students are to be provided annually with instruction on the lyrics and meaning of the anthem "O Canada"; its status as the official national anthem of Canada; and etiquette during the playing of the national anthem.
3. Secondary students are to be provided with instruction on the lyrics and meaning of the anthem "O Canada" as considered necessary and/or desirable by the principal and staff.
4. Instruction in the English version is to be provided to all students. Instruction in the French and Mi'kmaq versions 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/guardians.
5. The following guidelines apply to the use of "O Canada" in school assemblies and ceremonies:
  - a. "O Canada" will be played at the commencement of school sponsored special events and ceremonies.
  - b. In accordance with decisions made by the principal in consultation with staff and, when appropriate, "O Canada" may be sung in the English or French language or in a combined English-French, English-Mi'kmaq version.
6. Students will be excused from activities relating to patriotic exercises in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a. A written request is received from a parent/guardian;
  - b. The request provides a reason which the principal considers valid.
7. When a student has been excused from participation, the student(s) will be permitted to:
  - a. leave the classroom or place where the instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises; or
  - b. 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.
8. The official lyrics of “O Canada”, full history, translations, playing of anthems at events, etiquette during the playing can be found at the Canadian Heritage website ([www.pch.gc.ca](http://www.pch.gc.ca)).

### Monitoring

- The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of this administrative procedure.
- This administrative procedure will be monitored annually.

**Superintendent Approved:** December 9/09

**Ref:** BP 101.7

**Monitoring Date:** Annually

**Revised:** May 4/11