

**CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL  
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

**POLICY #ES-G-16**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM IN SCHOOLS**

[BOARD MINUTE #08-09, Page 2]

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board believes that fostering pride in Canada and its history, values, freedoms and institutions is an integral component of public school education.

Accordingly, the Board expects that all Regional schools will provide appropriate instruction and opportunity for students to learn and sing/listen to Canada's national anthem as an important part of daily activities and special events.

To this end, the Board expects the Superintendent of Schools (or designate) to prepare, implement and monitor administrative procedures such that:

- The playing/singing of "O Canada" is part of daily opening exercises in all Regional schools;
- Elementary school students are provided with age/language appropriate instruction related to the lyrics and meaning of "O Canada" and its importance as the official national anthem of Canada;
- "O Canada" is played/sung at the commencement of school-sponsored special events; and,
- Exemptions from participation in activities related to the national anthem are considered and provided per written request to and approval of the school principal.

# NATIONAL ANTHEM IN SCHOOLS

## POLICY #ES-G-16

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

**Authorization** These Administrative Procedures have been authorized by the **Superintendent of Schools**.

**Scope** Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures shall apply to all **students, staff** and **others** attending school-sponsored events.

**Responsibility** It is the responsibility of the **Director of Education Services**, assisted by the Family of Schools Supervisors, to ensure that Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures are implemented.

**Implementation** Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures shall be implemented by the school **Principal**, assisted by school staff.

- Procedures**
1. The **Director of Education Services** shall:
    - a) make Family of Schools Supervisors aware of the provisions and expectations related to Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures.
  2. The **Family of Schools Supervisors** shall:
    - a) make all school Principals aware of the provisions and expectations related to Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures; and,
    - b) monitor implementation of Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures in schools within the Family.
  3. **All School Principals** shall:
    - a) At the beginning of each school year, make students, school staff, and parents/guardians aware of the provisions and expectations related to Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures, including opportunities for exemption;

- b) ensure that “O Canada” is played/sung as part of opening exercises each morning of each school day and at the commencement of school-sponsored special events;
- c) in consultation with school staff, prepare a list of school-sponsored special events (e.g. Remembrance Day activities, graduations, provincial athletic tournaments) at which “O Canada” is to be played/sung; and,
- d) monitor implementation of Policy #ES-G-16 and these Administrative Procedures in his/her school.

4. **Elementary School Principals** shall:

- a) direct teachers (as appropriate) to provide age/language appropriate instruction related to the lyrics and meaning of “O Canada” and its importance as Canada’s national anthem;
- b) consider and approve (as appropriate) written requests from parents/guardians for students to be excused from participation in activities related to instruction and/or listening to/singing the national anthem; and,
- c) provide appropriate direction to staff regarding procedures to be followed for exempted students.

5. **Elementary Classroom and/or Specialist Teachers** shall:

- a) provide age/language appropriate instruction to students related to the lyrics and meaning of “O Canada” and its importance as the national anthem of Canada;
- b) instruct students to stand at attention, in accordance with ability, remove their hats, and listen to and/or sing along with the playing of “O Canada” each morning;
- c) permit students who have been exempted from participation to:
  - i. leave the classroom or area where anthem related

instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises; or

- ii. remain in the classroom or area without taking part in the anthem related instruction or exercises;
- d) if a student is to be excused for a period of time which the teacher (in consultation with the Principal) considers lengthy (e.g. instruction related to the anthem), provide an alternative learning activity for that student; and,
- e) ensure that every effort is made to respect the dignity of students who are excused from participation in anthem related activities.

6. **Secondary School Principals** shall:

- a) in consultation with staff, determine whether instruction as noted in sub-section 4a) of these Administrative Procedures is necessary and/or appropriate;
- b) consider and approve (as appropriate) written requests from parents/guardians for students to be excused from participation in anthem related instruction and/or activities; and,
- c) provide appropriate direction to staff regarding procedures to be followed for exempted students.

7. **Secondary Classroom and/or Specialist Teachers** shall:

- a) provide instruction as noted above in sub-section 4a) as considered necessary and/or appropriate by the Principal in consultation with staff (per 6a) above);
- b) instruct students to stand at attention, in accordance with ability, remove their hats, and listen to and/or sing along with the playing of "O Canada" each morning;
- c) permit students who have been exempted from participation to:
  - i. leave the classroom or area where anthem related

instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises; or

- ii. remain in the classroom or area without taking part in the anthem related instruction or exercises;
- d) if a student is to be excused for a period of time which the teacher (in consultation with the Principal) considers lengthy (e.g. instruction related to the anthem) provide an alternative learning activity for that student; and
- e) ensure that every effort is made to respect the dignity of students who are excused from participation in anthem related activities.

8. **Organizers of school-sponsored special events shall:**

- a) ensure that “O Canada” is played/sung at the commencement of the special event; and,
- b) request that participants and those in attendance stand in accordance with ability, remove their hats and listen to/sing along with “O Canada”.

***Distribution:*** All Policy and Procedure Manual holders