OPENING AND CLOSING EXERCISES

Responsibility:	*Senior Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being*
Legal References:	*Education Act: Reg. 298, 4(1) Operation of Schools-General; Reg. 435/00 Opening of Closing Exercises*
Related References:	*Nil*
Revisions:	
Reviewed:	*January 2016*

1.   Preamble

1.1   The procedures that follow provide guidelines and expectations regarding the administration of opening and closing exercises.

2.   Procedures

2.1   Every elementary and secondary school shall hold opening or closing exercises.

2.2   Opening or closing exercises shall include *O Canada* and may include *God Save The Queen*.

2.3   Opening or closing exercises may include the following types of readings that impart social, moral or spiritual values and that are representative of Ontario's multicultural society:
2.3.1   scriptural writings including prayers;
2.3.2   secular writings.

2.4   Opening or closing exercises may include a period of silence.

2.5   Opening or closing exercises may include the recitation of the pledge of citizenship. The following must occur before the decision is made about reciting the pledge:
2.5.1   the principal shall consult the school council;
2.5.2   the principal shall review the decision about reciting the pledge of citizenship at the beginning of each school year and must consult with the school council.
2.5.3   Should the decision be made to use the pledge, the following is the pledge:
I affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, and to her heir and successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

2.6   No pupil enrolled in an elementary or secondary school shall be required to take part in any opening or closing exercises where a parent/guardian of the pupil or the pupil, where the pupil is at least 18 years old, applies to the principal of the school that the pupil attends for an exemption from these exercises. [Reg. 298, 4(1)]