



## **REGULATION: Opening and Closing Exercises**

REFERENCE NO: R-AD-53

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1. In accordance with the *Education Amendment Act* (Progressive Discipline and School Safety), 2007, the *Education Amendment Act* (Keeping Our Kids Safe at School), 2009, *Accepting Schools Act*, 2012 and Ontario Regulation 435/00 (Opening or Closing Exercises), each school shall ensure that opening or closing exercises be held daily.
2. The opening or closing exercises must include the singing of O Canada.
3. In accordance with O. Reg. 435/00 made pursuant to the *Education Act*, the Principal may decide whether the opening or closing exercises at the school will include the pledge of citizenship.
  - i) Before making his/her decision about the reciting of the pledge, the Principal shall consult with his/her School Council.
  - ii) School Council Chairperson may make application to the principal to include the pledge of citizenship in opening exercises.
  - iii) The following is the pledge of citizenship:

I affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen (s.3, Ontario Regulation 435/00).

4. Exemptions follow the provisions of the legislation.

O. Reg. 435/00 s. 4 A pupil is not required to sing O Canada or recite the pledge of citizenship in the following circumstances:

1. In the case of a pupil who is less than 18 years old, if the pupil's parent or guardian applies to the Principal to be exempted from doing so.
2. In the case of a pupil who is at least 18 years old, if the pupil applies to the Principal to be exempted from doing so.