Greater Essex County District School Board

Regulation: Opening and Closing Exercises

Reference No: R-AD-53

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 open 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 citizenship in opening exercises.
   III. The following is the pledge of citizenship:

I affirm that 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 provision 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 do.

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.