

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 205

Opening Exercises

Opening exercises shall occur early in the school day in order to set a positive tone and to promote effective classroom management.

1.0.0 OPENING EXERCISES

1.1.0 In accordance with provincial legislation, opening exercises in all schools must include the singing of the national anthem, *O Canada*.

1.2.0 Opening exercises may include readings that impart social, moral or spiritual values and that are representative of Ontario's multicultural society.

1.3.0 A student may be exempted from opening exercises. In the case of a student who is less than 18 years old, the student's parent or guardian may apply to the principal of the school for an exemption from the exercises. A student who is at least 18 years old may apply for an exemption in the same way.

2.0.0 OTHER OPTIONS

2.1.0 Other options for opening exercises include:

- a) a period of silent reflection;
- b) a thought for the day;
- c) suitable comments from the teachers or principal concerning the origins of the reading selections; and/or
- d) other items such as announcements and current events.

Legal References:

Education Act S.304 Opening and Closing Exercises

Ontario Regulation 298—Operation of Schools S. 4: Readings and Exemption

Ontario Regulation 435/00—Opening or Closing Exercises

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