



## ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE

**Title:** Safe Schools: Opening and/or Closing Exercises

**Effective Date:** July 13, 2001

**Responsibility:** Superintendent of  
Program and Schools

### 1.0 OPENING AND/OR CLOSING EXERCISES

- 1.1 Schools will hold opening or closing exercises and students are required to sing “O Canada” as part of such exercises.
- 1.2 Opening or closing exercises may include readings that impart social, moral, or spiritual values that are representative of Ontario’s multicultural society.
- 1.3 Opening or closing exercises may include a period of silence.
- 1.4 The principal will consult with the school council at the beginning of each new school year and then decide whether the opening or closing exercises will include recitation of the Citizenship Pledge. This decision will be reported annually to the Superintendent of Program and Schools on the prescribed form.
- 1.5 Students shall be exempted from opening or closing exercises where the parent/guardian (or adult student) applies to the principal for exemption.

### 2.0 SCHOOL ANNUAL SURVEY FORM

See appendix “A” for the survey form that must be completed each September in regard to opening exercises.



\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_, Director of Education

**PLEDGE OF CITIZENSHIP REPORT FORM – Appendix “A”**

**School Year** .....

**Name of School** .....

**Name of Principal -** .....

**Pledge of Citizenship**

“I affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, and to her heirs and successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.”

**Date on which the School Council was consulted about the decision whether or not to include the Pledge of Citizenship in the daily opening/closing exercises –**

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**Advice of the School Council (Check one.)**

- The School Council advises that it wants the pledge recited daily.
- The School Council advises that it does NOT want the pledge recited daily.

**Decision of the Principal (Check one.)**

- The Pledge of Citizenship will be recited this year.
- The Pledge of Citizenship will NOT be recited this year.

**Date -** .....

**Signature of the Principal -** .....

*This information is a requirement of the Ministry of Education under regulations related to The Safe Schools Act, 2000 which amended the Education Act.*