



## AP 2-170 – RELIGIOUS EXERCISES

### BACKGROUND

---

In cooperation with the schools and the community, the Division supports the provision of Religious Exercises as outlined in the Public Schools Act and accompanying regulations.

### PROCEDURES

---

#### (Topic R2 School Administrative Handbook)

- Schools may advise parents of the regulations.
- Parents will initiate the petition.
- Religious exercises may only be conducted where:
  - the petition asking for such exercises has been signed by the parents/guardians of at least 60 students in that school; and
  - has been approved by the Western School Division Board of Trustees.
- Children’s names may only appear once on the petition;
- Upon approval by the school board:
  - schools may advise parents that religious exercises are in place; and
  - that children may opt in by providing a signed note to the Principal.
- Although it may be administratively convenient, schools will not send out ballots to parents/guardians to record whether or not they wish their children to participate in religious exercises.
- Religious exercises will occur prior to the commencement of the first regular class in the morning or the first regular class in the afternoon.
- These exercises can be no longer than 10 minutes in duration.

#### Reference:

Section 84, Public Schools Act  
M.R.554/88, Education Administration Act  
Topic R4, School Administration Handbook

**Adopted:** July 2013