

OPENING EXERCISES

POLICY

All schools in the Rainy River District School Board will have daily opening exercises.

RATIONALE

Opening exercises enhance the ability of schools to foster respect and appreciation for the values, diversity, and interconnectedness of our communities and to promote patriotism and pride in Canada.

IMPLEMENTATION

As per the guidelines.

GUIDELINES

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of the school principal to outline the school’s opening exercises.
- 1.2 Opening exercises shall include the singing of *O Canada*.
- 1.3 Opening exercises shall include the Rainy River District School Board’s acknowledgement of traditional Indigenous territory.
- 1.4 Opening exercises may include:
 - songs, readings and/or writings that reflect the social, moral, or spiritual values that are representative of our diverse society, and/or
 - a period of silence.
- 1.5 Parents/guardians who object to their children participating in part or all of the opening exercises may apply to the principal for an accommodation.

CROSS-REFERENCE	LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE
Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2.67 Equity and Inclusive Education Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2.68 Religious Accommodation Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appendix A: RRDSB Land Acknowledgement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Education Act</i> 51(2); 304 ▪ Regulation 298 S. (4) ▪ Ontario Regulation 435/00 – Opening or Closing Exercises ▪ Policy Program Memorandum 108: Opening and Closing Exercises

APPENDIX A: Rainy River District School Board Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we are [meeting/learning/working] today on the ancestral lands and waters of the Anishinaabeg, within Treaty Three Territory, and on the land that the Métis call home.

We give gratitude to the land and water for the gifts and many benefits we receive. We also give thanks to the First Nation Peoples, as the original protectors of the land and water.

We offer this acknowledgment to affirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships with the land and water in which we live and share with all our relatives and all of creation.

We make this commitment to move forward in a reciprocal relationship between nations and to improve our own understanding of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples - and each other, every day.