

Administrative Procedure 207

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Background

The delivery of religious instruction as part of the school program is desirable in some communities.

Procedures

1. School Community Councils within the Division may permit non-denominational religious exercises (such as the recitation or reading of the Lord's Prayer or selected Bible readings prescribed by the Minister of Education) to precede or to end the regular school day.
2. Any person, organization or group wishing to initiate an in-school religious program for students, shall present a detailed proposal to the School Community Council for consideration.
3. Any such program must be in accordance with Section 182 of the Education Act. This section outlines the amount of time allowed for religious instruction and the procedures to be taken when students do not wish to participate in the program.
4. The group wishing to initiate a program of religious instruction will be responsible for providing an instructor for the course, and for payment of any expenses incurred in the presentation of the course.
5. The School Community Councils must be assured that the instructor for the proposed program is competent, that the program has been well planned and that the numbers of students attending will be acceptable in terms of the facilities and adult supervision available.
6. If the School Community Council is satisfied that all requirements have been met, they will present their recommendation for approval to the Board for its consideration and subsequent approval or rejection.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 175, 182, 184 Education Act