

Policy No. II-09

Opening and Closing Exercises	
Adopted: February 20, 1987	Last Reviewed/Revised: September 21, 2021
Next Scheduled Review: 2024-2025	
Associated Policies & Procedures: N/A	

Purpose

To provide direction to all members of schools under the Board's jurisdiction with respect to requirements on opening or closing exercises as stated in the *Education Act*, the *Safe Schools Act, 2000*, Ontario Regulation 298, and attendant regulations, and to promote the distinctiveness, values, and mission of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

Application and Scope

This policy applies to all schools under the jurisdiction of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

References

[Education Act](#)

[Safe Schools Act, 2000](#)

[Ontario Regulation 298](#)

Attendant Regulations

HCDSB Mission Statement

Principles

The religious environment and climate of the Catholic School System permeates throughout the whole of school life.

Catholic schools endorse and promote the mandate, values, traditions, and distinctiveness



Requirements

Formal prayer shall form part of every opening or closing exercise and shall include the Our Father prayer.

Land acknowledgements shall form part of every opening or closing exercise.

Scriptural/spiritual readings may form part of every opening or closing exercise.

Secular readings or recitations may form part of every opening or closing exercise but may not replace scriptural/spiritual readings.

The singing of *O Canada* shall form part of every opening or closing exercise. Students and staff shall participate in the singing of *O Canada*.

A student is not required to sing *O Canada* in the following circumstances:

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