

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

DATE:	September 2000	PR.544 SCH: Opening and Closing Exercises
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:		
	TDSB PR.546 SCH: Religious Holy Days	

Purpose: To provide information about opening and closing exercises in schools

The *Education Act* has been amended by Bill 81 to add Section 304 which states:

- (2) Same--The opening or closing exercises **must include the singing of "O Canada"** and may include the recitation of a pledge of citizenship in the form set out in the regulations.
- (3) Exceptions—a pupil is not required to participate in the opening or closing exercises in such circumstances as are prescribed by regulation.

Note: Regulation 298 has previously been amended. Those amendments are listed in the Table of Regulations in the Statutes of Ontario, 1998.

- 1. Section 4 of Regulation 298 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 is revoked and the following substituted:
 - 4. (1) This section applies with respect to opening and closing exercises in public elementary schools and in public secondary schools.
 - (2) The opening or closing exercises may include the singing of God Save the Queen and may also include the following types of readings that impart social, moral or spiritual values and that are representative of Ontario's multicultural society:
 - 1. Scriptural writings including prayers.
 - 2. Secular writings.
 - (3) The opening or closing exercises may include a period of silence.
 - (4) In the following circumstances, a pupil is not required to participate in the opening or closing exercises described in this section:
 - 1. In the case of a pupil who is less than 18 years old, if the pupil's parent or guardian applies to the principal of the school for an exemption from the exercises.

Questions and Answers

