

## Administrative Procedure 302

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### ADMISSION OF NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS

#### Background

The schools operated by the Division exist to serve the educational needs of the residents of the Division. Division schools have a legal mandate to offer the programs prescribed by Alberta Education and the mandate to do so within the context of the Catholic Church's mission to educate the whole person in the name of Jesus Christ. The overall educational program in Division schools must be based on the Catholic concept of the human person, and the objectives and purposes of education, as stated by Alberta Education, must be set in this total Christian concept.

The Congregation for Catholic Education, 1988, declared that the distinctiveness of the Catholic school is its religious dimension, and that is to be found in the:

- Educational climate.
- Personal development of each student.
- Relationship established between culture and the Gospel.
- Illumination of all knowledge with the light of faith.

The documents of Vatican II state that, as Catholics, we are called to unity with all believers. We are invited by our Church's teachings to respond to the concept of ecumenism and appreciate the giftedness of other religious traditions.

It is recognized that many parent(s)/guardian(s) of the pluralistic and believing community, some of whom are not of the Catholic faith, are seeking an education that includes the spiritual and moral, as well as the cognitive, social and physical domains.

#### Procedures

1. The Division welcomes the children of parent(s)/guardian(s) who wish them to:
  - 1.1 Participate in the academic, social, physical and religious education program offered in the Division's schools.
  - 1.2 Be educated in the context of the Catholic community, which is a sign of the reign of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.
  - 1.3 Receive all the benefits and assume all the responsibilities of membership associated with membership in the Catholic school community.
2. The Principal shall, on receiving a request for admission from the parent of a non-Catholic student, interview the parents to ensure that they understand that their children will be expected to participate in all prescribed school programs, including the formal Religious Studies program.

3. The Principal shall make the decision to admit the student dependent on student and parent(s)/guardian(s) commitment to respect the Catholic faith and activities within the school, sufficient resources, facilities and programs, as defined by the appropriate Division policies and procedures regarding facilities, class size and staffing.
4. The Principal shall sign the application form and place it into the student's cumulative record file.
5. If the student is accepted for admission into a Division school, a School Registration Form is provided for the parent(s)/guardian(s) who wish to enrol their children in Division schools.

Reference: Section 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 21, 52, 53, 197, 222 Education Act