

## Administrative Procedure 208 - Religious Education

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### Background

In accordance with relevant legislation, the Division approves the practice of providing an opportunity for students to take part in religious instruction during the school day. With parental approval, students may be released from regular classes to participate in religious instruction classes.

The Division recognizes that schools may wish to implement prescribed religious exercises for it's students.

### Procedures

1. At the commencement of the school year, a request may be submitted to the Principal by a parent, a School Council or the Ministerial Association for the provision of a religious education program. The Principal shall discuss the request with the Superintendent.
2. With parental consent, students may participate in a religious instruction program.
3. The program of studies and the names of the person(s) who will be offering the instruction shall be presented to the School Council for information purposes prior to the start of the program each year.
4. Arrangements will be made through the Principal for available space for the religious education class within the school.
5. Whenever possible, arrangements are to be made for students to miss class periods where direct instruction by the teacher is at a minimum.
6. Parents are permitted to withdraw their student from a religious education program as outlined in 58.1 of the Education Act any time. Should the parents choose to withdraw their student from a program, the Principal of the school must be informed of this action.
7. The provider is responsible for ensuring that the classes are held regularly and must provide for a substitute instructor for the program if such an arrangement is required.
8. Costs incurred with respect to this program will be the responsibility of the group offering the program.

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References: Section 16, 18, 19, 33, 52, 53, 58, 58.1, 61, 196, 197, 222 Education Act

Alberta Bill of Rights  
Alberta Human Rights Act Remembrance Day Act  
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

Effective: 1995-10-12

Amended: 2016-09-22; 2021-04-04