



# CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Administrative Regulation 3074 - Flag and Anthem

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#### Preamble

Flags are symbols that identify people belonging to a group. The National Flag of Canada and the flag of Alberta are symbols of honour and pride for all Canadians and must be treated with respect. Flag etiquette outlined in this regulation is an adaptation of international usage and of the customs the federal government has been observing for many years.

Section 26 of the School Act says:

“The principal of a school shall ensure that the Canadian flag and the flag of Alberta are displayed at a school.”

The principal and staff are urged to take every opportunity to foster pride in Canada based on appreciation of its qualities and values as a nation and as a responsible member of the international community.

Schools are required to display the national and provincial flags and to provide students with opportunities to sing the national anthem.

#### Flags of Canada and Alberta

- 1(1)** The principal must ensure that the flag of Canada
- (a) is flown from the school's flag mast during school hours each school day, and
  - (b) is displayed in a prominent position in or near to the school's main entrance or in the school's main gymnasium and theatre.
- (2)** The principal must ensure that flag of Alberta, if flown, is be flown from a flagpole separate from that used for the national flag.

- (3) The principal must ensure that flag of Alberta is displayed in a prominent position in or near to the school's main entrance.
- (4) The principal must ensure that the national and provincial flags are displayed prominently at assemblies and in other locations as considered possible and appropriate by the principal and staff.

**Patriotic instruction**

- 2** All students must know each of the following:
  - (a) the lyrics and meaning of the anthem "O Canada" and its status as the official national anthem of Canada; and
  - (b) explanation of the significance of the national flag.

**Anthem**

- 3** The following guidelines apply to the use of "O Canada" and "God Save the Queen" in school assemblies and ceremonies:
  - (a) "O Canada" must be played and sung at the commencement of major or significant school sponsored assemblies and ceremonies;
  - (b) "O Canada" may be sung in the official French (or in a combined English-French) version; and
  - (c) "God Save the Queen" may be played and sung to close a program.

**Exemption from patriotic activities**

- 4(1)** Section 50(2) of the School Act allows a parent to ask that their student be exempted from patriotic exercises or instruction.
- (2) The principal may excuse a student from activities relating to patriotic exercises or instruction as long as they receive a written request from a parent/guardian or independent student, as the case may be.
- (3) If the principal excuses a student from participation in patriotic exercises or instruction, the principal must ensure that every effort is made to respect the dignity of students who are excused from participation in patriotic exercises or instruction.
- (4) If the principal approves a request for exemption from participation is granted, the student may:
  - (a) leave the classroom or place where the instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises, or

(b) remain in the classroom or place without taking part in the instruction or exercises.

(5) If a student is to be excused for a period of time which the principal considers lengthy such as instruction relating to the anthem, the principal must ensure that an alternative learning activity is provided for that student.

**Flying of flags 5(1)** The national flag of Canada must be flown from the flagpole of all schools each and every school day, and the facility operator or designate must raise and lower the flags at the appropriate time of day.

(2) The provincial flag of Alberta may be flown from a separate flagpole to the national flag of Canada. When doing so, it must be flown from a separate flagpole to that of the national flag. When viewed from the street, the national flag is to be flown on the left when the two flags are flown together.

(3) The flags must not be flown before sunrise, nor be allowed to remain up after sunset.

(4) Whenever there is a student assembly in any school for the purposes of scholarship presentations, graduation ceremonies, Remembrance Day observances, or any similar type of event, the flags must be placed in a conspicuous place in the assembly hall.

(5) All flags must be kept in good repair.

**Flags at half-mast 6(1)** A flag must be flown at half-mast when directed by

(a) the Chief Superintendent or designate, and

(b) Alberta Education.

(2) A flag may be flown at half-mast on the death of a student or staff member at the school.

(3) When the flag is raised to or lowered from the half-mast position, it is first raised to full-mast and then lowered.

(4) Flags are normally flown at half-mast from the time of notification of death up to and including the day of the funeral.

(5) Flags may be flown at half-mast on any occasion when the flag is being flown at half-mast on local government buildings. Flags are flown at half-mast on public buildings on the death of:

- (a) the sovereign or member of the immediate family of the sovereign,
- (b) the current or a former governor-general of Canada,
- (c) the current or a former prime minister of Canada,
- (d) a federal cabinet minister,
- (e) the lieutenant-governor or former lieutenant-governor of Alberta,
- (f) the premier, or former premier, or a cabinet minister of Alberta,
- (g) a member of parliament or the provincial legislature from a Calgary riding,
- (h) a senator from a Calgary riding, or
- (i) the mayor or a former mayor of Calgary.

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#### References

- Legal References:**
- *Education Act*, S.A. 2012 c. E-0.3
- Administrative Regulation References:**
- 1029 | Operation of Schools
- Other References:**
- For additional information on Canada's Flag, see the information from the federal government available from the Government of Canada.