

# National Anthem in Schools Policy

**Approval Date:** September 2025

**Effective Date:** September 2025

## 1. Policy Statement and Objective

The *National Anthem in Schools Policy* provides guidance and direction to the Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) related to the playing of the Canadian national anthem at the beginning of each school day at their respective schools.

## 2. Definitions

**Canadian national anthem:** The national anthem of Canada as set out in the *National Anthem Act*.

**school day:** As defined in the *Ministerial Education Act Regulations*, a school day means any day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a school holiday.

## 3. Guiding Principles

The playing of the national anthem is intended to remind students of their citizenship and foster a sense of pride and being part of a larger community.

## 4. Application

This policy applies to all schools in RCEs and CSAP in Nova Scotia.

## 5. Policy Directives

All principals must ensure the Canadian national anthem is played at their school at the beginning of each school day.

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

**Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD)**

- develop and communicate the *National Anthem in Schools Policy* to the RCEs and CSAP
- review this policy periodically for required revisions

## **Regional Centres for Education and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial**

- communicate the *National Anthem in Schools Policy* to school administrators for implementation
- provide support to schools in establishing the procedures for implementation of the *National Anthem in Schools Policy*
- monitor the implementation of the *National Anthem in Schools Policy* in collaboration with EECD

## **School Administrators**

- ensure the Canadian national anthem is played at the beginning of each school day
- model respectful behaviour when the national anthem is being played
- communicate the policy to families including when the anthem will be played

## **Teachers and Support Staff**

- model respectful behaviour when the national anthem is being played
- as appropriate during instruction, communicate the importance of playing the national anthem and what it signifies

## **Students**

- model respectful behaviour when the national anthem is being played

## **7. References**

Nova Scotia. 2018. *Education Act*. S.N.S., c. 1. <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/education.pdf>.

Canada. 1985. *National Anthem Act*. R.S.C., c. N-2. <https://lois-laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-2/page-1.html>.