

# **SCSBA Guidelines for Admittance of Non-Catholic Students for Saskatchewan Catholic School Divisions**

1. Catholic school divisions exist to provide a distinctive Catholic faith-based education. The faith and value dimensions of the Catholic faith are expected to permeate all aspects of instruction and school activities. Schools are expected to exhibit an atmosphere of prayer and be centers of gospel virtues.
2. Catholicism supports the belief that all parents are their child's primary educators. Parents not of the Catholic faith who desire a Catholic education for their children must respect the teachings of the Catholic Church and agree to abide by the policies and procedures of Catholic school divisions relating to religious instruction, and the permeation of faith within all aspects of the student's school experience. However, Catholic school divisions reserve the right to deny admission to a non-Catholic student who will not abide by the policies of the Board relating to religious instruction, religious activities and other such programs specific to our schools.

## **SCHOOL ADMITTANCE - CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS RESIDE IN \_\_\_\_\_ RCSSD**

### **BACKGROUND**

\_\_\_\_\_ provides a Catholic faith-based education for families of the school division within the context of the Board's vision, mission and beliefs.

- In alignment with our belief that parents are the primary educators of their children, both Catholic and non-Catholic students shall be admitted as follows:

### **GUIDELINES**

Catholic children whose parents or guardians reside in \_\_\_\_\_ are permitted to register providing:

- they meet the age and academic requirements for admittance.

Children who are not of the Catholic faith whose parents or guardians reside in \_\_\_\_\_ are permitted to register providing:

- they meet the age and academic requirements for admittance.
- their parents or guardians attend a meeting with a school official and complete the Declaration of Status indicating their desire for their children to participate in the formal religious instruction offered at the school.
- in the meeting the school official will ensure that the parents or guardians receive information with respect to:
  - a. the mission/vision of the school division
  - b. the characteristics of a Catholic School
  - c. expectations of all students related to spiritual formation and the atmosphere of a Catholic school.
  - d. the definition of a Catholic elector,
  - e. candidacy for Catholic school board elections,
  - f. voting in school board elections,
  - g. allocation of school taxes.

**SASKATCHEWAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
DECLARATION OF STATUS**

**Name of Parents/Guardians** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Students:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Addresses of Parents/Guardians** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check  Catholic  Non-Catholic

If you checked non-Catholic please complete the rest of the form.

I wish to have my child/children attend a Catholic school. I intend and desire that my child/children participate in the spiritual formation and atmosphere of the Catholic school. I agree to abide, to the best of my ability, with the vision, mission, and values of the school division, the spirit of the religious education program, and the religious celebrations of the school division.

**Name of Catholic School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Registration:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parents/Guardians:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of School Official:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SASKATCHEWAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION - INFORMATION TO PRINCIPALS

Admittance of students requires that the principal communicate with parents/guardians who are not of the Catholic faith on the following:

- a. Definition of an Elector in the \_\_\_\_\_ School Division
- b. Candidacy for School Board Elections
- c. Voting in School Board Elections
- d. Allocation of School Taxes

The following notes are intended to assist the principal in this communication:

**a. Definition of an Elector in the \_\_\_\_\_ School Division No. \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Eligibility to vote in school board elections is defined by Section 23 of the Local Government Election Act. Subsection 23(2) reads as follows:  
‘To qualify to be registered as an elector in any election held in a separate school division, the person shall...be of the religious faith of the minority that established that separate school division, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, and, on being registered as an elector in that separate school division, that person does not qualify to be registered as an elector in respect of any other school division.’
2. In this regard parents or guardians who are not of the Catholic Faith are not electors in a Saskatchewan Catholic Separate School Division.
3. Section 23 simply excludes parents or guardians who are not of the Catholic faith from voting in both a public and a separate board election.

**b. Candidacy for School Board Elections:**

Subsection 27(1) of the Local Government Election Act states as follows:

‘...a person is qualified to be nominated as a candidate and to hold office if he/she is an elector of the school division...’ As discussed in a) above, you can only be an elector in the Catholic division by being a member of the Catholic Church. Therefore, it follows that eligible voters who are not of the Catholic faith can never run for candidacy in a Catholic school board election.

**c. Voting In School Board Elections:**

To vote in a Catholic school board election, a person must be:

- a Canadian citizen,
- 18 years of age,
- a resident of the school division for at least three months and a resident of Saskatchewan for six months; and,
- a Catholic.

**d. Allocation of School Taxes:**

The decision to grant attendance rights to children of parents/guardians who are not of the Catholic faith into a Catholic school division should not be confused with decisions regarding taxation. The requirement of The Education Act is that all Catholics pay taxes to the Catholic Separate School Division.

This requirement does not infringe upon the individual Catholic's right to freedom of religion, nor does it compel him/her to send their children to a separate school. Similarly, the requirement is that all those persons who are not of the Catholic faith pay their taxes to the Public School Division.

If it is, therefore, unlawful for a representative of either the Separate or Public School Division to indicate that the signing over of taxes is a requirement for admittance.

It should be noted that in practice it is difficult to guarantee strict adherence to the current law. Both the Cities Act, (Section 180) and the Municipalities Act (Section 210) require municipal officials to accept the statement of any person as to whether he/she is a supporter of public schools or separate schools.

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admitancepolicyfinaljan2011