

Administrative Procedure 301

ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Background

Our schools exist in order to serve the educational needs of the residents of the Division. We have a mandate in legislation to offer the program of studies 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 School Act of Alberta recognizes that there is one publicly funded system of education in Alberta whose primary mandate is to provide education programs to students through its two dimensions, the public school and the separate schools.

The Division stipulates that this education must be based on the Catholic concept of the human person and that 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 the distinctiveness of the Catholic school in its religious dimension, and that this it to be found in the educational climate, the personal development of each student, the relationship established between culture and the Gospel and the 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 teaching to respond to the concept of ecumenism and to appreciate the giftedness of other religious traditions.

The Division recognizes that many parents 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.

Resources, facilities and programs permitting, the Division welcomes students whose parents or guardians wish them to: participate in the academic, social, physical and religious education program offered in the Division's schools; to be educated in the context of the Catholic community, which is a sign of the reign of God as revealed in Jesus Christ; and to receive all the benefits and assume all the responsibilities of membership associated with membership in the Catholic school community. The same welcome is extended to independent students seeking the same educational benefits.

Procedures

1. Resident students as defined in the School Act will be accommodated.
2. Non-resident students wishing to enroll in any school in the Division must make a request to the principal.



3. Applicants will be made fully aware of the nature and philosophy of a Catholic school prior to freely choosing to become a member of the school community; and applicants who later choose not to honour their responsibilities as members of the Catholic school community may withdraw their child(ren).
4. The principal of the school, on receiving a request for admission from the parent(s)/guardians of a non-Catholic student, shall interview the parents/guardians to ensure that they understand that their child(ren) will be expected to participate in all prescribed school programs, including the formal Religious Studies program. The same procedures shall hold in the case of an independent student.
5. It is the responsibility of the principal to check the records of all such students to establish their suitability for admission.
6. The principal shall make the decision to admit the applicant dependent on sufficient resources, facilities and programs. The principal, in consultation with the Superintendent shall consider classroom particulars, class size, physical space and other factors as appropriate to determine sufficient resources, facilities and programs.
7. The principal shall have the appropriate admission form (Form 301-1) completed and it shall become part of the student's cumulative record.

Reference: Section 3, 13, 30, 44, 45, 60, 61, 113, School Act

