

## Participation in Programs and Courses of Study in Catholic Religious Education

Adopted:  
June 6, 2000

Last Reviewed/Revised:  
October 17, 2023

Next Scheduled Review: 2026-2027

Associated Policies & Procedures:

[I-22 Admission to Schools Elementary and Secondary](#)

[VI-19 Admission to Schools Elementary and Secondary](#)

[II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education](#)

[VI-54 Equity and Inclusive Education](#)

## Purpose

To foster and enhance the integrity, values, traditions and distinctiveness of Catholic Education, students enrolled in schools under the jurisdiction of the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) shall participate in courses of study in Catholic Religious Education and other faith development activities provided by the schools.

## Application and Scope

This policy applies to students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the HCDSB.

## References

[Education Act](#)

[Institute for Catholic Education](#)

## Principles

- The Religious Education Curriculum supports the mandate, values, traditions and distinctiveness of the Catholic School System.
- HCDSB is committed to cultivating the special characteristics of Catholic Education, to teach the Authentic Truths of the Faith, in line with the Magisterium of the Church, and in co-operation with the bishops in the exercise of their teaching office.
- Religious Education curriculum is developed by the Institute for Catholic Education under the guidance and in the name of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.

- The religious environment and climate of the Catholic School System with the clear understanding that Religious Education and the many complementary elements, which contribute to maturity in Faith, are the central reason for the existence of Catholic schools.
- Catholic teachers are trained to teach the Religious Education Curriculum.
- The Church, Home and School are collectively responsible for the education in faith development and moral instruction of the students sacredly entrusted to them.
- In the Catholic School System, Religious Education is a fulsome curriculum intended to be taught in its entirety. Students enrolled in the elementary schools of the HCDSB shall participate in the complete Religious Education Curriculum provided in its schools.
- Students enrolled in the secondary schools of the HCDSB shall participate in a mandatory course of study in Religious Education in each year of their secondary school program.
- The *Education Act* ss. 42 (11) to (12) indicates that:

(11) On written application, a Roman Catholic board shall exempt a person who is qualified to be a resident pupil in respect of a secondary school operated by a public board from programs and courses of study in religious education if,

(a) the person is enrolled in a program that is not otherwise available to the person in a secondary school operated by a public board within the area of jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic board; or

(b) it is impractical by reason of distance or terrain or by reason of disability for the person to attend a secondary school operated by a public board. 1997, c. 31, s. 20.

(12) A person who is qualified to be a resident pupil in respect of a secondary school operated by a public board who attends a secondary school operated by a Roman Catholic board for a reason other than the one mentioned in clause (11) (a) or (b) is considered to have enrolled in all of the school's programs and courses of study in religious education. 1997, c. 31, s. 20.

(13) In addition to the exemptions provided for in subsection (11), no person who is qualified to be a resident pupil in respect of a secondary school operated by a public board who attends a secondary school operated by a Roman Catholic board shall be required to take part in any program or course of study in religious education on written application to the Board of,

(a) the parent or guardian of the person;

(b) in the case of a person who is 16 or 17 years old who has withdrawn from parental/guardian control, the person himself or herself;

(c) in the case of a person who is 18 years old or older, the person him or herself. 2006, c. 28, s. 9.

## Requirements

- The Principal shall direct unresolved issues related to participation in Catholic Religious Education courses of study to their Family of Schools Superintendent. If the issue remains unresolved, the parent/guardian can be directed to the Director of Education or designate.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chair of the Board*