

Policy Adopted: February 2014
Revision Date: October 2025
Responsibility: Director of Education

1. Objective

All schools and Halton District School Board (HDSB) buildings fly a Canadian flag and sometimes display other flags throughout the year. This Policy guides how flags are flown, lowered and displayed at schools and other HDSB owned buildings in a manner consistent with national and provincial guidelines and in alignment with Board commitments, values and applicable legislation.

2. Policy Statement

The Canadian flag should be in good order and repair, and flown in a manner consistent with national guidelines. The HDSB lowers the Canadian flag to the half-mast position as a symbolic gesture of condolence and respect. It supports the lowering of national flags to half-mast as a means to commemorate established occasions and dates, and to support governments and public organizations as they bestow an honour and express a collective sense of sorrow shared by all citizens.

The Director of Education may also request the flying of a flag in support of community awareness initiatives which align with the HDSB's values, supports the principles and expectations of the HDSB's Safe Schools Policy, Human Rights Equity Action and Accountability Plan and are consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Such requests may be directed to all or some schools and other HDSB owned buildings, or limited to the J.W. Singleton Education Centre. Similarly, the Director may request a flag to fly on an outside flagpole, or to be displayed on the interior of the buildings.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all schools and HDSB owned properties.

4. Guiding Principles

The implementation of this policy will be guided by the following standards:

- Compliance with national and provincial protocols and guidance
 - Alignment with HDSB commitments and values and applicable legislation
 - Consistency across the HDSB (unless otherwise directed by the Director of Education)
 - Transparency and communication – the rationale for flag-related decisions shall be communicated clearly to staff, students and the community, in accordance with administrative procedures.
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Related Board Policies and Governance Procedures

[Safe Schools Policy](#)

Related Board Administrative Procedures

[Flags Administrative Procedure](#)

[Human Rights Equity Action and Accountability Plan](#)

Related Legislation and Industry Documents

[Government of Canada - National Flag of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario - Flag Protocol](#)

[Ontario Human Rights Code](#)

Policy Due for Review: October 2029

Revision History

- October 2025, Motion M25-096 - Comprehensive Review
 - minor updates to align with current practices and updated formatting
- March 2021
- February 2017