

## Code I: Students

<b>POLICY TITLE AND CODE</b>
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<b>ADMITTANCE OF NON-CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY STUDENTS</b>
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<b>IBD</b>
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### STATEMENT OF POLICY

St. Paul R.C.S.S.D. #20 provides a Catholic faith-based education 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 children shall be admitted as follows:

- Catholic children whose parents or guardians reside in the division boundaries 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 the division boundaries 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 'Non-Catholic Student Declaration of Intention' form indicating their desire for their children to participate in all elements of the religious education program and the religious celebrations of the school division,
- Note: in the meeting the school official will ensure that the parents or guardians receive information with respect to the nature, characteristics and expectations of a Catholic school as well as associated election and tax information.

### RATIONALE

"Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools."

*Congregation for Catholic Education (Vatican) May 5, 2009*

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 centres 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 be respectful of 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.

## **PROCEDURES**

1. Under the direction of the school principal, each school shall establish appropriate registration procedures and documents such that the statement of policy may be followed and the appropriate student information is collected.
2. Children who are not of the Catholic faith whose parents or guardians reside in the division boundaries are permitted to register providing:
  - a. they meet the age and academic requirements for admittance,
  - b. their parents or guardians attend a meeting with a school official and complete the 'Non-Catholic Student Declaration of Intention' indicating their desire for their children to participate in all elements of the religious education program and the religious celebrations of the school division, and
  - c. in the meeting, the school official will ensure that the parents or guardians receive information with respect to:
    - the mission and vision of the school division,
    - the characteristics of a Catholic School,
    - expectations of all students related to spiritual formation and the atmosphere of a Catholic school,
    - the definition of a Catholic elector,
    - candidacy for Catholic school board elections,
    - voting in school board elections, and
    - allocation of school taxes.
3. The 'Non-Catholic Student Declaration of Intention' form is to be kept in the Student Cumulative folder (see Appendix A).

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

June, 2011

**Appendix A**

**Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools**

**NON-CATHOLIC STUDENT DECLARATION OF INTENTION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents/Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Parents/Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*\* Please place the original form in the student's CUM folder