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**HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION****POLICY HANDBOOK**

**Policy Code:** HGAC  
**Policy Title:** Religious Instruction  
**Cross Reference:** HGAA Locally  
Developed Courses  
**Legal Reference:** *Education Act S.18*  
**Adoption Date:** April 22, 2004  
**Amendment or Re-  
affirmation Date:** September 17, 2013  
February 27, 2018

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**POLICY**

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION RECOGNIZES AND RESPECTS THE DIVERSITY OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF FAMILIES AND SUPPORTS PARENTS WHO DESIRE TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN RECEIVE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS. THE BOARD MAINTAINS THAT SUCH INSTRUCTION MUST RECOGNIZE DIVERSITY AND PROMOTE RESPECT.

**REGULATIONS**

1. There shall be no requirement to receive religious instruction in schools. All religious instruction courses shall be approved by the Board. High school religious studies courses shall also be approved by Alberta Education.
2. The religious instruction shall adhere to:
  - 2.1. The Education Act
  - 2.2. Alberta Education Guidelines for Recognizing Diversity and Promoting Respect;
  - 2.3. Alberta Education locally developed, acquired and authorized course requirements;
3. All students under the age of 18 years participating in religious instruction must have written parental permission to do so. In the case of students 18 years of age and over, parents shall be informed that the student wishes to access religious instruction.
4. Those providing religious instruction must agree in writing not to provide instruction to students who do not have written parental consent if the student is under the age of 18.
5. No member of Horizon staff shall be required to teach or in any way be involved with religious instruction unless they are willing to do so.
6. The provision of religious instruction shall not result in an economic burden to Horizon School Division.
7. Access to religious instruction may be offered by a school without assigned credits at the high school level.
8. Requests for the provision of religious instruction in Horizon schools must originate with members of a faith-based community desiring such instruction.
9. Once approved by the Board, it is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that the integrity of course content, resources, and related materials are maintained.