

The Division was established for the primary purpose of providing a Catholic education for resident students of the Division.

The Division is committed to developing and maintaining schools and programs which exemplify the values and practices of a Catholic community. Students and parents who are not of the Catholic faith who wish to attend a Division school will be advised in the course of the approval process, of the expectations of the Division, and they will be obliged to recognize, respect and abide by those expectations.

Definitions

A resident student of the Division is one who:

- ❖ May or may not be baptized in the Catholic faith;
- ❖ Under the authority of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, has been placed in the care of a foster parent where the foster parent is a resident of the Division; and
- ❖ One whose custodial parent resides within the boundaries of the Division;
- ❖ Resides within the Division boundaries as indicated by Alberta Education;
- ❖ Who at September 1 in a year is 6 years of age or older and is eligible to enter grade 1;
- ❖ Who at September 1 in a year is younger than 19 years of age;
- ❖ Students who do not comply with the conditions outlined above are considered non-resident students.

Non-Catholic students shall be defined as those students who have not received the sacrament of Catholic Baptism and whose parents are not of the Catholic faith.

Procedures

1. The Division will provide educational services to all children of its resident Catholic parents.
2. The Principal will advise parents that they are responsible in conjunction with the parish for sacramental preparation and participation in sacramental celebrations.
3. As required by the Bishop and the *Program of Studies*, schools will provide educational background necessary for all students to gain an understanding of the sacraments.
4. Residency of independent students, as defined by the Education Act, Section 6, will be determined by where the student resides, rather than where his/her parent(s) reside.
5. Admissions to Early Childhood Education programs will be made in accordance with this administrative procedure and with Administrative Procedure 302 – School Entrance Age.

6. Resident students of the Division residing in a designated attendance area for a school shall be enrolled in that school and attendance is compulsory if a program offered in that school is suitable for the student. A resident student of the Division who resides in a designated attendance area for a school shall be given priority over a student who does not reside in the designated attendance areas for that school if there are insufficient resources and facilities to accommodate both students.
7. The division welcomes non-resident students to its schools providing that resources are available and the Catholic identity, vision and mission are fully respected and supported.
 - 7.1 Whenever a non-resident student wishes to enroll in a school in the District, the Principal shall notify the student and the student's parents of the spiritual life, liturgical activities, retreats, social justice practices, and the moral and ethical values celebrated in the school and the school's duties and expectations of all students in these regards.
 - 7.2 The Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent/designate, is responsible for determining if there are sufficient resources and facilities to accommodate non-resident students subject to the following criteria:
 - 7.2.1 A program that is suitable to the educational needs of the student must be available.
 - 7.2.2 Sufficient qualified staff must be available.
 - 7.2.3 Sufficient classrooms space and learning resources must be available.
 - 7.3 In the event that the Principal denies a student admission to the school, the student and the parent may appeal to the Superintendent.
8. In the event that there is some question with regard to residency, the parent/guardian or independent student will be asked to provide proof of guardianship.
9. In the event that the Principal has some concern with regard to the residency of the student, the parent or the student if independent, will be asked to execute an affidavit declaring the residency status. (Form 301-1)

Reviewed/Revised: March 2014, November 2016, January 2017 January 2020

Reference: Section 3, 4, 10, 16, 17, 21, 52, 53, 197, 222 Education Act
Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 41 – AP 300
St. Thomas Aquinas R.C.S.R.D. No. 38 – AP 300