

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Students

Student Demonstrations

STU #31

Revised: August 2026

Background

Christ The Redeemer (CTR) Catholic Schools recognizes the inherent dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God, and seeks to form students who are thoughtful, compassionate, and responsible participants in their communities. Catholic education supports the development of well-formed consciences and encourages students to engage with social and moral issues through prayerful discernment, respectful dialogue, critical thinking, and concern for the common good.

Students may hold and express deeply held beliefs about matters affecting their communities and society. Such expression should respect the dignity and rights of others, recognize the responsibilities that accompany individual freedom, and contribute to rather than disrupt the learning and well-being of the school community. Catholic schools have a particular responsibility to ensure that students encounter differing perspectives without coercion or ideological influence and are supported in developing their own informed judgments.

In partnership with parents and guardians, CTR Catholic seeks to balance opportunities for responsible student voice with its obligation to provide safe, caring, faith-filled learning environments and to protect the integrity of instructional time.

Student demonstrations and walk-outs are sometimes organized by students and sometimes encouraged by entities and movements outside the school. The division's responsibility is to provide a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours, while ensuring instructional hours are maximized. As a result, protests and demonstrations should occur outside of school hours and off school grounds.

This procedure is supported by Section 31 of the *Education Act* (Act), which calls for students to attend school regularly and punctually, be diligent in pursuing their education, and be ready to learn. The procedure is also supported by Section 256 of the Act which states that no person shall disturb or interrupt the proceedings of a school, loiter or trespass in a school building or a property owned by a board, or conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the safe operation of a school.

Procedures

1. Teachers shall adhere to the Alberta *Education Act*, Alberta Education and Childcare *Code of Conduct for Teachers and Teacher Leaders*, *Regulated Professions Neutrality Act*, and CTR Catholic Administrative Procedure PER 37 - Political Neutrality and Controversial Issues, with particular attention to the definition of ideological advantage: perspectives taught to students in a biased manner with the intent to take advantage of a student's uninformed or under-informed opinions. This definition does not include programs of study established under the Act nor the teachings of the Catholic Church.

2. As stated within the aforementioned legislation and procedures, teachers and teacher leaders are required to maintain objectivity, a balanced presentation of issues, and support for diverse student viewpoints. Staff shall not encourage students to engage in a demonstration or walkout of the school unless it is aligned with Board policy, approved by the school principal, planned in advance, supervised by the school principal, or designate, and approved by the parent or guardian of each participant.
3. Students wishing to engage in a walk-out shall ensure they have parental/guardian consent by following the school's protocol for absenteeism. Students who walk out without parent or guardian permission are subject to normal protocols for unexcused absences.
4. Principals should monitor any demonstration or walk-out that occurs on school grounds and ensure they do not contravene Section 256 of the Act.
5. In the event of a walk-out or demonstration, staff are to remain with their regularly scheduled classes and/or duties unless assigned alternate duties by their principal.