



POLICY SECTION: **SCHOOLS**

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: **BLESSING AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF SCHOOLS**

POLICY NO: **S.08**

Date Approved: March 7, 2013— Student Achievement and Well Being October, 1967	Date of Next Review: March 2016	Dates of Amendments: March, 2013 , 14 Dec 92; 18 Jun 92; 19 Oct 89; 16 Oct 86, Oct.67
Cross References:		
Appendix		

Purpose:

The policy outlines the manner in which the Toronto Catholic District School Board can provide support concerning the blessings and official school openings of schools ceremonies.

Scope and Responsibility:

The Director of Education with the support of the Communications Department and respective Schools Superintendents will provide support to the local School Principal during events celebrating official openings and blessings.

Alignment with MYSP:

Living Our Catholic Values

Strengthening Public Confidence

Providing Stewardship of Resources



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Financial Impact:

Generally, there is no overall significant financial impact as the award costs will not exceed the annual budget provision in the amount of \$10,000.

Legal Impact:

There is no significant or identified legal impact.

Policy:

An appropriate ceremony shall be arranged for the blessings and official school openings of a new school, or an addition to a school or sod turning.

Regulations:

The following procedure shall be adopted with respect to solemn blessings and official openings of new schools and sod turnings for new schools. and new additions remove.

1. The Principal will consult with the area Trustee, pastor and superintendent to determine a suitable date and time for the event. A planning committee will be established locally, including the Principal, school staff, Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) and student council, with support from the Communications Department. At a meeting convened by the Principal the program will be planned by a committee comprised of the Principal, teachers, supervisory officer, member of the Communications Department,



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~~the local pastor, the local school trustee, the Chairman of the Catholic School Advisory Council and the President of the Student Council.~~

2. The official guest list will include:
 - the Archbishop/**Cardinal**, Chair of the Board, all ~~ward~~**local** trustees of the Board, parish priest, senior board officials, architect, contractor, **the Minister of Education**, the ~~m~~**Mayor (if city partnership)**, the **local** city Councillors, ~~and~~ **the local member of provincial parliament** and **the local member of parliament** ~~federal representatives.~~
3. The order of speakers on the program will be as follows:
 - a. **Local Trustee**
 - b. Chair of the Board
 - c. **Archbishop/bishop/parish priest (blessing)**
 - d. Principal of the School/**Director of Education (if no Principal)** ~~Chair~~
 - e. **Minister of Education/ member of provincial parliament designate**
 - f. **Local Member of Parliament (no speaking role unless project involvement)**
 - g. **Mayor/ Councillor designate (if city partnership)**
 - h. **CSPC Chair/ President of the student council (where applicable)**
 - i. ~~Minister of Education~~
 - j. ~~Appropriate Trustee~~
 - k. ~~Local Member of Provincial Parliament~~
 - l. ~~Local Member of Parliament~~
 - m. ~~Representative of the Municipality~~



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~~n. Director of Education~~

~~o. Chair of Catholic School Advisory Council~~

~~p. Parish Priest~~

~~q. President of the Student Council, where applicable~~

4. If the event is to celebrate the opening/blessing of an addition to an existing school, or the sod turning for a school addition, the official guest list will include:

The Trustee, local parish priest, area superintendent, architect, contractor, local city Councillor (if city funding) and local member of provincial parliament.

5. The order of speakers on the program for the opening of an addition to an existing school will be as follows:

a. Local Trustee

b. Chair of the Board

c. Pastor

d. Principal of the school

e. Local member of provincial parliament

f. Local member of parliament—no speaking role unless involvement in the project

g. Local city Councillor (no speaking role unless involvement in the project)

h. Superintendent

i. Chair of Catholic School Parent Council



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j. **President of the student council, where applicable**

6. Others to be invited **to attend sod turnings, openings and blessings of new schools and additions can include** students, parents, pastor(s) of neighbouring parish(es), **former principals of the school**, principals of neighbouring Catholic and public elementary and secondary schools **and the Director of Education or designate**, ~~chairman and senior officials of the Board of Education.~~
7. The ceremony for the blessing of the school will be planned in consultation with the pastor.
8. An annual budget of \$600 per school community under 500 students and \$750 per school community over 500 students will be set for the costs of the blessing and official opening of schools up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

Definitions:

Evaluation and Metrics:

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following:

The Director of Education, supported by the Communications Department, shall ensure compliance with the **invite protocol and** overall maximum budget allocation.