



## AP 365 – MEMORIALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DECEASED STUDENTS

### BACKGROUND

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Tragic events such as the loss of a member of the school community requires a thoughtful and coordinated response. School division employees will support staff, students and families who experience this loss, and will assist with connections to appropriate community and school division resources. There are a number of supports available within Saskatoon Public Schools including TERT Team and TERT Resources.

As places designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for the memorializing of students or staff. However, instances will arise in which a school site may be considered an appropriate venue.

### PROCEDURES

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The following criteria should be considered when determining whether a facility request for a memorial is appropriate:

1. Necessity - The potential number of people who wish to attend to event creates the necessity of a large gym-like space in which to hold the event. The facility booking would be treated as a special form of rental and, therefore, require reasonable attention to fire regulations.
2. Learning - There can be no interruption of student learning. Precedent within our school division calls for memorial events to take place a reasonable time following school dismissal or on a weekend.
3. Nature – A Celebration of Life - The nature of the memorial service should be that of a Celebration of Life. Symbols of life and positive messages of hope should be major components of such services. This is a memorial event; not a funeral. Therefore, there will be no bodily remains permitted for this type of memorial. Memorials may not be appropriate at all in certain types of situations. Each situation will be studied at the time and decisions will be made by a cross-section of school and school division representatives. Student participation or involvement in such services should remain limited and carefully monitored by school/division representatives.
4. The Individual - The person being memorialized must be a member of the school community – a student, staff member or member of the learning community directly related in some manner to the school.

Reference: The Education Act  
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