


**Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board**



Section: Schools

**POLICY SC: 05**  
**Blessing and Official Opening of  
 Schools and Major Additions**

<b>NUMBER:</b>	SC: 05
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	Oct. 13, 1998
<b>AMENDED:</b>	Feb. 8/2011
<b>RELATED POLICIES:</b>	A: 11; Pr SC:05
<b>REPEALS:</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	2017 - 2018

**1.0 OBJECTIVE:**

1.1 The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board shall dedicate new schools or major additions to schools with a solemn blessing and official opening ceremony.

**2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- 2.1 A school blessing is a milestone event in the life of a Catholic school community. It is an occasion that marks:
- commitment to Catholic education
  - establishment of school structure
  - celebration of a new school community
  - completion of a major school addition project
- 2.2 As a Catholic community, the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board supports the expression of faith as the central focus of the Blessing and Opening/Dedication Ceremony for all new schools and major additions to schools or other Board facility.

**3.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES:**

- 3.1 The Blessing and Official Opening/Dedication Ceremony shall be held as soon as possible after a new school or major addition to an existing school is completed and occupied.
- 3.2 A Program Committee comprised of the local school trustee(s), the appropriate Superintendent, the principal, other designated school staff, parish priest, chair of the Catholic School Advisory Council, president of the Student Council (if applicable), and Communications Coordinator will be established to plan and organize the appropriate event. Where a Catholic School Advisory Council or Student Council has not been established, a representative may be selected by the principal.
- 3.3 A budget for the costs of the Blessing and Official Opening/Dedication Ceremony shall be established and the costs will be covered centrally.
- 3.4 The Bishop/Auxiliary of the Diocese will be invited to officiate, with the assistance of the Parish Priest(s), at the Blessing and Opening of a new school. The Auxiliary Bishop/Episcopal Vicar (or local Parish Pastor) will be invited to officiate at the Blessing and Dedication of a major addition to a school or other Board related facility.

**4.0 RESPONSIBILITY:**

- 4.1 The Director of Education shall be responsible for preparing general guidelines to implement the requirements of the Blessing and Official Opening of Schools and Major Additions policy.

**5.0 REVIEW AND EVALUATION:**

- 5.1 The effectiveness of this policy shall be assessed through trustee, staff and community satisfaction measures.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed in the 2017-2018 policy review cycle.

**6.0 REFERENCES:**

Other related policies of the Board which support this policy are:

A: 11 Naming of Schools

Pr SC:05 Blessing and Official Opening of Schools and Major Additions Procedures