

ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD TO CHALLENGE LEGALITY OF BILL  
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# English Montreal School Board to challenge legality of Bill 21

Yet the EMSB is concerned other English school boards won't back them and they'll have to carry the cost of the legal bills.

MONTREAL GAZETTE ([HTTPS://MONTREALGAZETTE.COM/AUTHOR/MONTREAL-GAZETTE](https://montrealgazette.com/author/montreal-gazette))

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The English Montreal School Board is taking the province to court over its so-called state-neutrality

law.

At its monthly board meeting Wednesday night, commissioners voted to challenge the law, known as [Bill 21](https://montrealgazette.com/tag/bill-21) (<https://montrealgazette.com/tag/bill-21>), which bans the wearing of religious symbols on the job for some Quebec employees, like teachers, police officers, judges, security guards and crown prosecutors. In a statement issued Thursday morning, the board said it would seek an exemption to the law because it governs a linguistic minority.

At the meeting, the board unveiled a report from its human resources committee that recommended a legal challenge based on Section 23 of the Canadian Charter, which guarantees minority-language educational rights.

“Seeking an exemption through the courts concerning Bill 21 is particularly relevant to the EMSB and all of Quebec’s English school boards, which are grappling with surging parent demand for access to schools offering high-level second-language French programs, delivered through bilingual and French immersion schools,” EMSB Commissioner Julien Feldman, who chairs the Human Resources Committee, said in the statement.

Board chairperson Angela Mancini said the EMSB will encourage other English school boards, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), and other representatives of the English-speaking community to participate in the legal action.

*This story will be updated.*

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