



HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Background

The Division and public health officials have a responsibility to protect the safety of our youth by providing medically accurate and timely information to students through age-appropriate sexual health education.

It is equally important, that a complete education program that addresses the moral and ethical aspects of disease prevention be provided that is consistent with Catholic teachings and the basic moral principles of respect and dignity for all human life.

Procedures

1. Classroom instruction related to sexual health education will address the following outcomes from the Alberta Education Program of Studies:
 - 1.1 Physical Education and Wellness, Grades 4-6: Growth & Development outcomes; and
 - 1.2 Health and Life Skills, Grades 7-9: Wellness Choices (Personal Health) outcomes.
2. Sexual health education will be presented from a Catholic ethical perspective.
3. The rationale for this program will be explained to parents and any other interested stakeholders when requested.
4. Parents will be encouraged to become familiar with the information being presented to their children at various grade levels.
5. Staff in-service sessions will be conducted initially and on an ongoing basis as required.
6. Presentations by resource personnel from the community must align with a Catholic ethical perspective. Guest presenters require advance approval of the Superintendent or Religious Education Coordinator.
7. A provincially developed resource for meeting sexual health education outcomes in the Alberta Education Program of Studies in Catholic schools developed by religious education consultants and approved by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta will be used in sexual health education.
8. Principals shall give parents the opportunity to exercise the decision to “opt-in” a student to curricular instruction that is sexual in nature, such as human sexuality, by notifying parents 30 days in advance of the instruction, or classroom content.



- 8.1 Each year before human sexuality topics are taught in a school, the Principal will notify parents via an “opt-in” form (Form 206-1), and on the school website; principals must also provide notification via the school newsletter outlining:
 - 8.1.1 The instruction of the human sexuality topics for each applicable grade;
 - 8.1.2 The date that each topic will be discussed; and
 - 8.1.3 The teacher(s) who will instruct the learning.
- 8.2 This decision not to “opt-in” does not, and cannot, apply to discussions that incidentally arise as a part of daily classroom interaction.
9. Alternate learning experiences shall be provided for those students who do not “opt-in”.
10. Principals shall not permit the use or provision of learning and teaching resources that deal primarily and explicitly with human sexuality unless the learning and teaching resources are approved by the Minister.
 - 10.1 Where the use or provision of learning and teaching resources referred to in section 10 is by an external party, the principal shall not permit the use or provision unless both the learning and teaching resources and external party are approved by the Minister. Bishops and clergy are not considered external parties and therefore do not require approval by the Minister.

Reference: Section 1, 2, 16, 18, 18.1, 19, 52, 53, 58.11, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
The Alberta Bishops: A Resource for Inclusive Community (2001)
Alberta Bill of Rights
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom, Constitution Act, 1982
Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Bill 44, Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act