

## FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

### Background

The Division will provide gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality instruction as mandated through the grades 4 through 6 Physical Education and Wellness Program, the grades 7 through 9 Health and Life Skills Program, Religious Studies - Roman Catholic 15, 25 and 35 and Senior High School Life Management (CALM 20 Course).

The Division and public health officials have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of our youth by providing medically accurate and timely information to students in the area of human sexuality education. Moreover, Alberta Education requires that human sexuality education within the approved Alberta curriculum be provided for all students.

It is equally important that a complete educational program that addresses the moral and ethical aspects of family life and human sexuality be provided for our students. Such a program must be consistent with our Catholic philosophy and be in keeping with the basic moral principles of respect and dignity for all human life, endeavoring to respond in a manner consistent with the teaching of our faith and with Gospel values.

### Definitions

**Responding to a Discussion:** Is when the teacher responds to a question, comment, or the response of a student in the classroom where there may need to be additional information to clarify the perspective. When possible, the teacher must discern when comments and questions are responded to individually, in small groups or in the classroom and whether outside support is needed to address the topic adequately.

**Activating a Discussion:** Is when the teacher proactively engages students in a discussion about a particular topic outside the curriculum area or a topic that may be politically or polarizing within a local, provincial, national or global community. An “activated” discussion by a teacher about human sexuality and gender identity without providing advance notice to parents is a violation of section 58.1 (1) of the Education Act.

### Procedures

1. Formal classroom instruction on family life and human sexuality education will be presented at the appropriate grade levels and integrated into the provincial curriculum as follows:

Kindergarten to Grade 9

Physical Education and  
Wellness

Health and Life Skills  
Religious Education Programs

Grade 10, 11 and 12

Career and Life Management  
Religious Studies - Roman Catholic 15, 25 and 35

2. This information is to be presented in a Catholic, ethical context.
3. Given that much information about methods to avoid sexually transmitted diseases is publicly available to students, the approved program of the Division will attempt to provide the correct technical information at appropriate grade levels, using the Catholic ethical context. It must be made clear to students that the only way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases is to do what one is morally obligated to do: confine sexual activity to monogamous marriage.
4. The Principal and/or teacher shall provide notice to a parent/guardian of a student where courses, programs of study or instructional materials, or instruction, include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality.
  - 4.1. Notice to a parent/guardian is not required when teachers are responding to a discussion. See definitions.
  - 4.2. For clarity, when teachers activate a discussion, notice to parents/guardians is required.
5. 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.
  - 5.1. Each year before gender identity, sexual orientation and 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 outlining:
    - 5.1.1. The instruction of the gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality topics for each applicable grade;
    - 5.1.2. The date that each topic will be discussed; and
    - 5.1.3. The teacher(s) who will instruct the learning.
  - 5.2. This decision not to “opt-in” does not, and cannot, apply to discussions that incidentally arise as a part of daily classroom interaction.
6. Parents may “opt-in” each year by:
  - 6.1. Completing the “opt-in” form (Form 206-1) sent out by the Principal.
7. Alternate learning experiences shall be provided for those students who do not “opt-in”.
8. Principals shall not permit the use or provision of learning and teaching resources that deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality unless the learning and teaching resources are approved by the Minister.
  - 8.1. Where the use or provision of learning and teaching resources referred to in section 4 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.
9. Staff in-service sessions will be accessed to assist staff in the delivery of gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality instruction.
10. Use of community resource personnel is permitted with approval from the school administrator, provided that the presentation is done in a manner respectful of the Catholic moral and ethical position. However, gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality instruction outcomes should be primarily taught by a teacher.

11. Resources other than those in the approved curricula must be reviewed and approved by the school administration and the Superintendent/designate prior to being utilized for instruction.

Approved: September 1, 2025

Reference: Section 1, 2, 16, 18, 18.1, 19, 52, 53, 58.11, 58.12, 196, 197 222 Education Act

Alberta Bill of Rights

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982

Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act

Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12

Section 18,32,33,52,53,58.1,196,197,222 Education Act  
Ministerial Directive 4.1.2 – Human Sexuality Education  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12