

Administrative Procedure 206

HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Background

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 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, endeavouring to respond in a manner consistent with the teaching of our faith and with Gospel values.

Procedures

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

Kindergarten to Grade 9	Health and Life Skills Religious Education Programs
Grade 10, 11 and 12	Career and Life Management Religious Education 15, 25 and 35 Science 10 Biology 20, 30
2. This information is to be presented in a Catholic, ethical context.
3. Given that much information about the use of condoms or other 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. School personnel will explain the rationale of this program to parents and to any other interested stakeholders prior to the introduction of the unit. This explanation:
 - 4.1 Must be in the form of a written letter from the school informing the parents of the scope and nature of the upcoming instruction in the area of human sexuality;
 - 4.2 May include parent information nights to allow parents to meet the teachers and review the learning resources and teaching concepts; and
 - 4.3 Must inform parents of their right to exempt their child from the human sexuality component of any course. Parents may request such exemption through a written

request to the teacher. In such cases, schools must provide alternative learning experiences for those who are exempted by their parents.

5. Parents will be encouraged to become familiar with the information being presented to their children at various grade levels.
6. Staff in-service sessions will be accessed to assist staff in the delivery of human sexuality education.
7. Use of community resource personnel is encouraged, provided that the presentation is done in a manner respectful of the Catholic moral and ethical position.
8. Resources other than those in the approved curricula must be reviewed and approved by the school administration and the Superintendent prior to being utilized for instruction.

Reference: Section 39, 50, 60, 61, 113, School Act
Ministerial Directive 4.1.2 – Human Sexuality Education
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12