

**Policy 7.05**

**Category: Curriculum and Instruction**

**Alberta Human Rights Act Section 11.1  
Notice to Parent or Guardian**

**BACKGROUND**

The Alberta Human Rights Act protects the rights of all Albertans, a fundamental component of society in Alberta. Section 11.1 addresses the rights of individuals within education as it pertains to religion and sexuality, stressing notification to parents of sensitive topics of discussion stemming from curricula, and the fundamental right of each parent to exempt a student from participation.

“A board as defined in the *Education Act* shall provide notice to a parent or guardian of a student where courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, prescribed under that Act include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation.”

*Alberta Human Rights Act Section 11.1 September 1, 2010*

**POLICY STATEMENT**

1. The CAPE Charter Board supports the involvement and factual education of students in studies involving controversial issues as an important means of preparing students to participate responsibly in a democratic and pluralistic society. The CAPE Charter Board recognizes that at times sensitive issues may arise in the classroom and in discussions.
2. The CAPE Charter Board respects the rights of all Albertans, the Medicine Hat community, and the CAPE school community in particular, and adheres to the *Alberta Human Rights Act and Section 11.1*.

**DEFINITIONS**

3. **Pluralistic society** - a diverse society, where the people in it believe all kinds of different things and tolerate each other's beliefs even when they don't match their own.
4. **Democratic society** - a form of society which favours equal rights, freedom of speech and a fair trial and tolerates the views of minorities.
5. **Professional judgement** - applying relevant training, knowledge, and experience within the context provided by relevant professional and technical standards, as applicable, in making informed decisions about courses of action that are appropriate in the circumstances.

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6. **Sensitive issues** - issue which must be handled carefully because of its delicate nature, that may offend people, may make people feel uncomfortable.

**GUIDELINES**

7. The Superintendent is to develop protocols that guide the principal and teachers in addressing sensitive issues, discussions, and activities within the delivery of programs.
8. The Principal is to ensure that teachers are familiar with established protocols that guide the teachers in addressing sensitive issues, discussions, and activities within the delivery of program and that these protocols are followed diligently.
9. Parents have the right to request that their child be excluded from participating in discussions and activities that are deemed sensitive.
10. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop, or cause to be developed, an appeal/complaints process and all forms pertaining to Section 11.1 of the Alberta Human Rights Act or the appeal process.

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**References:**

*CAPE charter*

*Alberta Human Rights Act*

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