

Policy ~~7.06~~ **7.04**

Category: Curriculum and Instruction

Human Sexuality Education

BACKGROUND

Under the authority of the *Education Act*, the Minister of Education has ordered that the human sexuality components of the Grades 4, 5 and 6 Health program, Grades 7, 8 and 9 Health and Personal Life Skills program, and the Career and Life Management 20 program will be prescribed beginning with the 1989-90 school year. Every board operated school offering these courses shall ensure that the human sexuality component is offered to all students. Parents have the right to exempt their child from school instruction in human sexuality education.

Human sexuality education is a mandatory component of the Health and Life Skills and Career and Life Management sections of the *Program of Studies*. CAPE is teaching the Alberta Education Health and Life Skills curriculum in grades K-9. CAPE offers human sexuality education in grades 4-9.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. The CAPE Charter Board supports the delivery of human sexuality education to students in grades 4 through 9.

DEFINITIONS

2. **Human sexuality** - about sexual feelings, thoughts, attractions and behaviours towards other people.
3. **Program of Studies** - any set of courses and experiences identified as satisfying the requirements of a program or program; prescribed concepts that pupils must be taught at each key stage of the education program.
4. **Exempt** - free (a person or organization) from an obligation imposed on others.

GUIDELINES

5. Human sexuality education **is** to be taught as stand-alone units.
6. Human sexuality education is to be taught according to the objectives outlined in the current Health and Life Skills and Career and Life Management sections of the *Program of Studies*.
7. ~~Parents are to be advised prior to the start of human sexuality instruction of their right to exempt their child from this curricular component.~~

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7. Parent/Guardian Notification and Opt-In Process
 - 7.1 The Principal shall give parents/guardians 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/guardians at least 30 days in advance of the classroom instruction
 - 7.2 The following information must be communicated:
 - 7.2.a. The instruction of the gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality topics for each applicable grade;
 - 7.2.b. The date(s) that each topic will be discussed; and
 - 7.2.c. The teacher(s) who will instruct the learning
 - 7.3 This decision to “opt in” does not, and cannot, apply to discussions that incidentally arise as a part of daily classroom interaction.
 - 7.4 Parents must “opt in” their children each year and the school must retain signed parental/guardian consent forms and records of notice, participants and materials used.
 - 7.5 Parents are to be invited, and encouraged, to meet with the teacher and discuss the program material.
8. Learning and teaching resources dealing primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality must be approved by the Minister of Education unless such resources are being used to provide religious instruction.
- ~~8. Information regarding the material to be covered is to be forwarded to parents ——— each year prior to instruction on human sexuality beginning. Parents are to be ——— invited, and encouraged, to meet with the teacher to discuss the program material.~~
9. Parents will have access to any and all resources to be used within the program.
10. External parties presenting learning and teaching resources dealing primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality must be approved by the Minister of Education, whether in the context of religious instruction or otherwise.
11. CAPE will provide alternate learning experiences for those students who have **not** been “**opted in**” to human sexuality instruction.
12. The Superintendent is to develop protocols regarding the provision of this program.

References:

Education Act

Education Amendment Act (Bill 27)

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Guide to Education

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