

Administrative Procedure 205

ENGAGEMENT OF THIRD-PARTY PRESENTERS FOR HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION

Background

The Division adheres to the principle that parents are the primary educators of their children and thus complements their role in promoting the values and traditions of the Catholic faith. A basic value in the Catholic tradition is that all persons are made in the image of God and therefore all are worthy of dignity. Life is a sacred gift and all students will be supported with compassion, consideration and respect.

Sensitive issues may arise when working with students in any subject area. Because the concept of permeation recognizes that Catholic identity finds expression in every dimension of a Catholic school, all day-to-day activities are experienced as authentically Catholic. Sensitive issues are addressed in the context of healthy lifestyle choices that represent Catholic Church teachings. Teachers are responsible for witnessing to their faith in all areas of school life including those dealing with sensitive issues.

Definition

Third-party presenter means any external individual or organization involved in delivering content related to human sexuality, gender identity, or sexual orientation, who is not a student, a student organization, or an employee of the Division.

Procedures

1. The Division expects that all teachers, alongside parents in their role as primary educators, present with clarity the teachings of the Catholic Church when addressing any sensitive issues.
2. Principals will provide opportunities for parents to review all resources and to access information on the human sexuality component of the program. The source material and resources for human sexuality education are approved by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories for use in Catholic schools. Other resources should not be used in the classroom for lesson delivery.
3. There may be instances where a school wishes to use the services of a third-party presenter. The following process must be followed prior to confirming the speaking engagement:
 - 3.1 All third-party presenters and any associated presentation materials must be approved by both the Minister and the Division prior to any being considered for use as part of any curricular or extra-curricular activities.
 - 3.2 Requests for Division and Ministerial approval shall be sent to the Superintendent, Leadership Services and the Principal shall provide all required information as outlined in [Administrative Procedure 205 - Appendix](#). If the Principal is aware of previous Ministerial approval of the third-party presenter and any resource materials to be used as part of the presentation, the Principal shall provide any relevant information in this regard including written evidence of the same.

- 3.3 In the event that the third-party presenter is not able to provide evidence of prior Ministerial approval as a presenter and in relation to any resource materials to be utilized as part of the presentation, the Superintendent, Leadership Services, and the Superintendent, Learning Services may:
 - 3.3.1 seek Ministerial approval of the third-party presenter and any resource materials to be used as part of the presentation; or,
 - 3.3.2 advise the Principal that the third-party presenter's services shall not be used by the school.
- 3.4 The Superintendent, Leadership Services, in conjunction with the Superintendent, Learning Services, shall consider approval of the third-party presenter and the resource material for the presentation on behalf of the Division.
- 3.5 All third-party presentations and resources must be developmentally and educationally appropriate, and reflective of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
4. When presentations are made, each teacher must remain with their class and will undertake suitable follow-up in topics addressed by the community resource presenter when necessary.

Adopted: June 21, 2018

Reviewed/Revised: February 5, 2021, August 29, 2022, January 4, 2024, July 31, 2024, September 2, 2025

Reference: Education Act, Sections 1, 2, 16, 18, 18.1, 32, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 58.1, 196, 197, 222
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
The Directory for Catechesis