

Administrative Procedure 206

HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

“Sexuality is a gift from God and a fundamental part of what makes us human. Each of us is called to acknowledge this gift and the One who gave it. When we live our sexuality in the proper way, according to our state in life, others will be able to find God through us” (The Canadian Catholic Bishops: Pastoral Letter to Young People on Chastity, 2011).

Background

As a Catholic School Division, human sexuality education falls under the domain of religious instruction as it is presented from a Catholic perspective and uses resources approved by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

The Division recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children. Parents must be in a position to make informed decisions regarding their choice to have their children participate in human sexuality education. All students are expected to receive the human sexuality instruction in grades four to nine. Effective sexual health education is evidence-based and should be provided in an age appropriate, culturally sensitive manner that is respectful of individual diversity, abilities and choices. Effective sexual health education also:

- Integrates the positive, life-enhancing and rewarding aspects of human sexuality while also seeking to prevent and reduce negative sexual health outcomes.
- Focuses on the self-worth, respect and inherent dignity of the individual.
- Helps individuals to become more sensitive and aware of the impact their behaviours and actions may have on others and society.
- Incorporates a lifespan approach that provides information, motivational support and skill-building opportunities that are relevant to individuals at different ages, abilities and stages in their lives.
- Is structured so that changes in behaviour and confidence are developed as a result of nonjudgmental and informed decision making.
- Encourages critical thinking and reflection about gender and gender-role stereotyping.
- Encourages a holistic understanding of the human person and sexuality, based in the Catholic understanding of the human person.

Procedures

1. Foundational principles of human sexuality instruction include the following:
 - 1.1. The sanctity of human life which recognizes the inherent dignity of the human person from conception until death;
 - 1.2. Chastity, the virtue that calls all human beings to express their sexuality with purity of body and mind;
 - 1.3. Respect for and dignity of all human persons regardless of their gender, race, belief system, sexual orientation or family circumstance; and

- 1.4. Social relationships characterized by generosity, mutual respect and service to others, especially the poor, marginalized and oppressed.

All students are expected to take the Physical Education and Wellness (gr. 4-6), Health and Life Skills (gr. 7-9), and Career and Life Management 20 courses. Parents must be notified at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of a course, program of study or instruction, or the first use of instructional materials or an exercise, that include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality. In order to have their child participate, a Parent must, before the start of the course, program of study or instruction, or before the first use of the instructional materials or exercise, provide consent for their child to do so.

Teachers will provide alternative learning experiences for those students for which consent has not been provided.

2. Instruction in the human sexuality component of the program in grades 4 to 9 will take place at a time in the year when relationships have been well established between students and teachers.
3. Principals will provide opportunities for parents to review all instructional materials 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 the Division. No other resources may be used in the classroom for human sexuality curricular instruction.

In the event that the services of a third party presenter be considered, prior to scheduling and/or retaining such services, the Principal must ensure that [Administrative Procedure 205 - Engagement of Third Party Presenters for Human Sexuality Instruction](#) is followed.

Adopted: June 21, 2018

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

Reference: Education Act, Sections 18, 18.1, 32, 51, 52, 53, 54, 58.1, 58.2, 58.11, 58.12, 70, 196, 197, 222
Alberta Bill of Rights
Alberta Human Rights Act
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
Code of Canon Law #796-806
Catechism of the Catholic Church
John Paul II. *Theology of the Body*
The Canadian Catholic Bishops: Pastoral Letter to Young People on Chastity (2011)