



Family Life – Sex Education

Schools in the Park West School Division shall follow the prescribed curriculum for Family Life Education as approved by Manitoba Education. The Board believes that the purpose of family life and sex education is to help students acquire factual knowledge, skills and attitudes which will result in behavior that contributes to the well-being of the individual, the family and society.

Helping students attain a mature and responsible attitude toward human sexuality is a continuous task of every generation. Parents have the prime responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values. The schools should support and supplement parents' efforts in these areas by offering students factual information and opportunities to discuss concerns, issues and attitudes inherent in family life and sexual behavior.

In addition to the requirements listed below, the customary policies and regulations concerning the approval of new curriculum content, units and materials shall apply to any course(s) dealing with family life and sex education offered by the division:

1. Prior to offering the program in each school year, schools shall inform parents/guardians of the program's content. Instructional materials to be used in family life/sex education shall be available for inspection by the public.
2. Prior to offering the program, parents/guardians of all students shall be notified that such courses have been scheduled and that they retain the option to withdraw their child/children from the program.
3. Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education shall have professional preparation in the subject area, either at the pre-service or in-service level. Training sessions for instructors shall be made available as required.

Exemption Procedure

1. Exemption will be granted from a specific portion of the family life/sex education curriculum on the grounds that the material taught is contrary to the religious beliefs and teachings of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. A request for exemption must be submitted in writing to the principal at least 5 school days in advance of instruction in that portion of the curriculum for which the exemption is requested. The request must state the particular conflict involved.
3. The principal will confer with the teacher to determine the length of time a student will be exempt. The teacher will develop an alternative activity for which the student will receive credit.
4. The principal will inform the parent/guardian of the disposition of the request within 3 school days of receipt of the request.