

Exemption from Instruction in the Family Life Program Fully Alive
Related to the Human Development and Sexual Health
Expectations in the Ontario Curriculum Health and Physical
Education, Grades 1-8, 2019

Adopted:
October 15, 2019

Last Reviewed/Revised:
December 20, 2022

Next Scheduled Review: 2025-2026

Associated Policies & Procedures:

[VI-96 Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in the Ontario Curriculum Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019 \(PPM 162\) and the Fully Alive Catholic Family Life Program](#)
[II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education](#)

Purpose

The purpose of the Religion and Family Life Curriculum as developed by the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) under the guidance and in the name of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, is to foster and enhance the integrity, values, traditions and distinctiveness of Catholic Education.

As per PPM 162 (August 21, 2019), this policy allows for students to be exempted on an individual basis at the request of their parents/guardians, from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations found in strand D of *the Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education Grades 1-8, 2019* in tandem with the related unit in the *Fully Alive Catholic Family Life program*.

Application and Scope

This policy pertains to students enrolled in elementary schools in the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB), in Grades 1 to 8, and all individuals who may be involved in the exemption, including parents/guardians, principals, teachers and HCDSB personnel who may have duties and/or responsibilities under this policy.

References

[Education Act](#)

[Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 162, Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations, Grades 1-8, 2019](#)

Principles

- The Religious Education and Family Life Curriculum supports the mandate, values, traditions and distinctiveness of the Catholic School System.
- The Home, the Church and the School are partners in the education of children in faith and morals, and parents are the primary educators of their children.
- The religious environment and climate of the Catholic School System with the clear understanding that Religious Education and the many complementary elements, which contribute to maturity in Faith, are the central reason for the existence of Catholic schools.
- In the Catholic School System, Religious Education is a fulsome curriculum intended to be taught in its entirety. With the expectations outlined in PPM 162, students in Grades 1 to 8 in the HCDSB may be exempted from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D of the *Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, 2019* as well as the related unit in the *Fully Alive Catholic Family Life* program.
- Exemptions are limited to instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in both the *Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education* as well as the *Fully Alive Catholic Family Life* program.
- Students will not be exempted from instruction related to any other expectations in this curriculum or related to expectations in other curriculum subjects. Exemptions will be granted only for instruction related to all the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in a student's grade, and not for instruction related to selected expectations or groups of expectations.
- References to human development and sexual health made by teachers, board staff, or students outside the intentional teaching of content related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations are not included in the exemption policy/procedure.
- There will be no academic penalty for an exemption.
- There will be no assessment, evaluation, or reporting of exempted students' achievement of Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in their particular grade. Exempted students' grade in health and physical education will be determined on the basis of the overall expectations in strand D of the curriculum, without consideration of the specific expectations under Human Development and Sexual Health.

Requirements

The policy will require all HCDSB elementary schools every school year to:

- provide parents/guardians with a list of all Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade. The Institute for Catholic Education has prepared letters for every grade pertaining to the related unit in the *Fully Alive Catholic Family Life* program outlining

the same.

- inform parents/guardians that they can choose to have their child or children exempted from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in both the *Ontario Curriculum: Physical and Health Education* document as well as the Fully Alive Catholic Family Life program by completing and returning an exemption form for each child.
- make a standard exemption form available to parents/guardians every school year, accommodating the timelines specified below. Schools may also choose to accept separate written requests for an exemption.
- notify all parents/guardians at least twenty school days before the start of the “period of instruction” related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations. Inform parents/guardians of the deadline for the submission of the completed exemption form or written request must not be more than five school days before the start of the period of instruction.
- make clear that, in the case of an unforeseen event, school boards and schools have the authority to move the period of instruction to a later date in the school year and must give notice of the change to parents/guardians as soon as reasonably possible.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Chair of the Board