



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POLICY: Catholic Curriculum – Family Life Programs

Date Approved: August 28, 2001

Last Reviewed: 2024-2025

Dates of Amendment: March 24, 2016; May 23, 2017; November 26, 2019; January 28, 2025

Cross Reference: [Policy/Program Memorandum 162: Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019](#)

POLICY:

1. The Board shall recognize parents/guardians as the primary educators of their children.
2. The Board shall recognize the value and need for the *Blessed & Beloved and Fully Alive* family life education programs, and these programs shall be provided within the schools. The *Blessed & Beloved* and *Fully Alive* programs include the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations curriculum.
3. Parents/guardians of elementary students shall be informed of the content of the family life education programs.
4. The Board shall respect written requests from parents/guardians to withdraw their children from the Human Development and Sexual Health content within Unit 4 of *Blessed & Beloved* and Theme 3 of *Fully Alive* programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

1. Principals will inform parents/guardians of elementary-age students (grades one to eight), via meetings and/or written notification, of the grade-specific content of the family life education programs, as well as their option to have their child exempted from the Human Development and Sexual Health content. The notification for all parents will be made at least twenty (20) school days before the start of the period of instruction.
2. Principals, teachers, and Leadership & Parent Engagement Department personnel will cooperate to ensure effective implementation of the family life education programs while exempting from attendance in the Human Development and Sexual Health content of the programs of those

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students whose parents/guardians have submitted written requests for their withdrawal. An exemption request must be submitted to the school principal five (5) school days before the start of instruction.

3. Parents will be informed of the [Institute for Catholic Education](#) (ICE) website for support and resources.
4. Principals will ensure that supervision is provided for elementary students who are officially withdrawn from the Human Development and Sexual Health content of the family life education programs (as outlined in PPM 162).