



March 19, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

RE: Education Act | Section 58.1 | Course Components Notice and Exemption
Health and Life Skills |

On September 1st, 2019, Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* replaced Section 50.1 of the *School Act*. The Calgary Board of Education is still required to provide parents with notice "where courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises...include subject matter that deals **primarily and explicitly** with **religion and human sexuality**."

Your child is currently enrolled in the Alberta Education **Health and Life Skills** Program of Study. The program aims to enable students to make well informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to the wellbeing of self and others. Three General Outcomes serve as the foundation for Health skills. They include wellness choices, relationship choices and life-long learning choices.

Human sexuality education is offered as a mandatory component of the Program of Study and is contained in the following learning outcome:

- **Grade 4:** Describe physical, emotional and social changes that occur during puberty
- **Grade 5:** Identify the basic components of the human reproductive system, and describe the basic functions of the various components
- **Grade 6:** Identify and describe the stages and factors that can affect human development from conception through birth; examine and evaluate the risk factors associated with exposure to blood-borne diseases—HIV, AIDS, hepatitis B/C
- **Grade 7:** Examine the human reproductive process, and recognize misunderstandings associated with sexual development; identify the effects of social influences on sexuality and gender roles and equity; examine the influences on personal decision making for responsible sexual behaviour; examine abstinence and decisions to postpone sexual activity as healthy choices
- **Grade 8:** Recognize and accept that individuals experience different rates of physical, emotional, sexual and social development; determine the signs, methods and consequences of various types of abuse; identify and describe the responsibilities and consequences associated with

involvement in a sexual relationship; describe symptoms, effects, treatments and prevention for common sexually transmitted disease; identify and describe basic types of contraceptives

- **Grade 9:** Apply coping strategies when experiencing different rates of physical, emotional, sexual and social development; evaluate implications and consequences of sexual assault on a victim and those associated with that victim; determine “safer” sex practices; identify and describe the responsibilities and resources associated with pregnancy and parenting; develop strategies that address factors to prevent or reduce sexual risk

For more specific information about these learning outcomes, parents may wish to go to <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/health/programs.aspx>

Instruction involving the subject matter is expected to be commencing after the spring break.

Pursuant to Section 58.1(2) of the *Education Act*, you as a parent/guardian may request that your child be excluded from the above-identified instruction, without academic penalty, by having your child either:

- a | leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction; or
- a | remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of the instructional material.

Sign and return the attached student Exemption Form, or otherwise indicate in writing, to your child's teacher on or before the Commencement Date of the instruction that you wish to exercise your right to exclude your child by one of the means indicated above. If your child's teacher does not receive this form prior to the Commencement date, your child will be included in the instruction.

If you would like additional information about the content of this notification, please contact the teacher at 403-817-3552.

Sincerely



Ryan O'Shaughnessy
Principal, West Ridge School
t | 403-817-3552
WestRidge@cbe.ab.ca



Education Act Section 58.1 | Student Exemption

Health and Life Skills

In response to the Notice provided to me by the Calgary Board of Education indicating that the Health and Life Skills Program of Study in which my child is enrolled, includes subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with human sexuality, I hereby request, in accordance with section 58.1(2) of the *Education Act*, that my child be excluded from the instruction, the exercise or the use of instructional material identified in the notice.

I request that my child: *(check relevant box)*

- ☐ a | Leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction.

OR

- ☐ b | Remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of the instructional material.

I confirm that I am the legal guardian of the student named **below** and have chosen to exercise my right to have my child excluded from the instruction described in the parent/guardian Notice from the Commencement Date and the following dates indicated in the Notice. I also confirm that it is my obligation to ensure that this form is returned to the teacher on or before the Commencement Date of the instruction indicated in the notice.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Print Student Name

All personal information contained herein is collected by The Calgary Board of Education to fulfill the purpose set out above, is done so pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta) (FOIP Act), and is used under the authority of section 39(1)(a) of the FOIP Act.