


Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board



Section: Student

POLICY
ST: 27 Human Development and Sexual Health Exemption

NUMBER:	ST: 27
EFFECTIVE:	Dec. 10, 2019
AMENDED:	
RELATED POLICIES:	See References
REPEALS:	
REVIEW DATE:	2024-2025

1.0 OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 The objective of this policy is to allow students to be exempted, at the request of their parent(s)/guardian(s), 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*.

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 **Parents** play an important role in their children’s learning. They are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethnocultural, spiritual, and personal beliefs and traditions, and are their children’s first role models. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people’s education.

Parents should become familiar with the health and physical education curriculum in order to appreciate what is being taught in each grade and what their children are expected to learn. Parents must be informed of the board’s policy ST: 27 Human Development and Sexual Health Exemption and accompanying procedure (Pr ST: 27) that allows for students to be exempted, at their parents’ request, from instruction related to the Grade 1 to 8 Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D.

- 2.2 **Teachers** are responsible for using appropriate and effective teaching strategies to help students achieve the health and physical education curriculum expectations. To increase their comfort level and their skill in teaching health and physical education and to ensure effective delivery of the curriculum, teachers are expected to reflect on their own attitudes, biases, and values with respect to the topics they are teaching and seek out current resources, mentors, and professional development and training opportunities, as necessary.

Teachers must follow policy ST: 27 Human Development and Sexual Health Exemption and accompanying procedure (Pr ST: 27) that allows for students to be exempted, at their parents’ request, from instruction related to the Grade 1 to 8 Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D.

- 2.3 **Principals** work in partnership with teachers and parents to ensure that each student has access to the best possible educational experience. They can provide support for the successful implementation of the health and physical education curriculum by emphasizing the importance of the curriculum within the framework of a healthy, safe, inclusive and accepting school.

Principals must follow policy ST: 27 Human Development and Sexual Health Exemption and accompanying procedure (Pr ST: 27) that allows for students to be exempted, at their parents' request, from instruction related to the Grade 1 to 8 Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D.

- 2.4 The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board is committed to the principles of equity and inclusive education, consistent with our Catholic teachings, which value and promote human rights and social justice in all Board policies, programs, guidelines, operations and practices.

3.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES:

- 3.1 The board will allow students to be exempted from the instruction on an individual basis, according to the following conditions:
- a) Exemptions are limited to 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*. Students will not be exempted from instruction related to any other expectations in this curriculum or related to expectations in other curriculum subjects.
 - b) Exemptions will be granted only for instruction 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.
 - c) 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 this exemption policy and procedure.
 - d) There will be no academic penalty for an exemption.
 - e) 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.

4.0 POLICY RESPONSIBILITY:

- 4.1 The Director of Education shall ensure that administrative procedures are developed that are in compliance with the principles and directives of this policy.

5.0 REVIEW AND EVALUATION:

- 5.1 The effectiveness of this policy shall be assessed through trustee, staff and community satisfaction measures.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed in the 2024-2025 policy review cycle.

6.0 REFERENCES:

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 162
The Ontario *Education Act* , subsection 8(1), paragraph 3