

INSTRUCTION

Standard Instructional Program

Family Life Education

This regulation supersedes Regulation 3204.5

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the family life education (FLE) program in Fairfax County Public Schools, consistent with the provisions of state regulations and guidelines.

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Scope of the Program

1. All FLE programs shall conform to School Board-approved objectives as described in the document Family Life Education Objectives and Descriptive Statements.
2. Only School Board-approved instructional materials and media included in Family Life Education Grade-Level Program Descriptions may be used for FLE instruction.

B. Parental Notification and Review of Materials

1. Principals must duplicate and distribute the appropriate grade-level opt-out letter and form.
2. Principals shall either mail the opt-out letter and form to parents when school opens or send the opt-out letter and form home with students in the information packet that is sent home when school opens. Opt-out forms may be accessed at www.fcps.edu/DIS/OMSI/fle.
3. Principals must use the August or September editions of their school newsletters to tell parents how the opt-out letter and form are being sent home and when parents should expect them.
4. Principals must include copies of the opt-out letter and form in registration packets for parents of students who enroll after school begins.

5. Parents and guardians will be allowed a minimum of two weeks to return the opt-out forms to afford them an opportunity to preview approved instructional materials.
6. No FLE instruction may begin before the school-established deadline for returning opt-out forms.
7. Law requires that FLE curriculum materials be available at each local school for parental and guardian review at any time during the school year.
8. Law requires parent and guardian accessibility to all FLE instructional materials. Schools should provide access to materials housed in the building and/or refer parents to the Nancy Sprague Technology Center to access titles that are unavailable at the local school. All FLE instructional material titles and annotations are included in Family Life Education Grade-Level Program Descriptions. Grade-level program descriptions can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/DIS/OMSI/file.
9. The Instructional Services Department will notify parents of the availability of the opt-out letter and form in the first *Familygram* of each school year.

C. Opt Out

1. Permission to opt out must be granted at parental or guardian request for all or any part of the FLE.
2. Opt-out requests must be in writing, either using the FCPS opt-out form or a note from the home.
3. Students who opt out must be provided nonpunitive, grade-level appropriate instruction in non-FLE content areas.
4. A parent may reverse his or her decision and opt a child back into the program by providing written notification to the principal.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

A. Elementary School Family Life Education Program

1. The scope of the elementary level (K-6) program includes mental health education units, selected personal health and safety lessons, and the human growth and development program (grades 5-6 only).
2. Classes in human growth and development must be sex-separate.
3. Teachers of the human growth and development program must participate in a required one-day staff development program.

4. The following topics may not be included as a part of FLE instruction: abortion, contraception, homosexuality, and masturbation.

B. Middle School Family Life Education Program

1. The scope of the middle school level (7-8) program includes emotional and social health (mental health education), and human growth and development.
2. Classes in human growth and development must be sex-separate.
3. Teachers of the human growth and development unit must participate in a required one-day staff development program.
4. The topic of abortion may not be included as a part of FLE instruction. Questions about homosexuality and condoms may be discussed in the context of HIV disease prevention education.

C. High School Family Life Education Program

1. Family life education is included in the following subjects:
 - a. Biology, grade 9 or 10 (human life education).
 - b. Health Education, grade 10 (personal and community health).
 - c. Virginia and United States Government, grade 12 (the family in Virginia law).
 - d. HIV disease prevention lessons, grades 11 and 12, included at each grade level in a required course to be determined by the principal.
2. Teachers of grade 11 and 12 HIV disease prevention unit must participate in a required one-day staff development program.
3. Teachers must receive training approved by the Instructional Services Department prior to teaching the personal and community health and human life education curricula.

Legal reference: Code of Virginia, sections 22.1-200, 22.1-207, and 22.1.207.1