

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 321</b>	
<b>SECTION: Students</b>	
<b>Adopted/Original Date of Issue</b>	November 2019
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Last Reviewed</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Revised</b>	February 2020
<b>Next Review Date</b>	December 2025
<b>Contact</b>	Curriculum

## **Exemption from Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations**

### **Background**

In accordance with Program Policy 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 (PPM-162), the District is required to have an administrative procedure in place by 30 November 2019. This procedure will ensure parents/guardians can exercise their right as their child’s primary educators.

### **Procedure**

#### Notice and Communications

1. Schools are required to:
  - 1.1. provide parents with a list of all Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade;
  - 1.2. inform parents that they can choose to have their child or children exempted from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by completing and returning the exemption form (F-321) for each child;
  - 1.3. notify all parents at least twenty school days before the start of the “period of instruction” (F-321) related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations;
  - 1.4. F-321 will inform parents of the date by which the completed exemption form or written request must be submitted in order for their child to be exempted from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations. The deadline for parents to submit their completed exemption form or written request must not be more than five school days before the start of the period of instruction;
  - 1.5. 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 as soon as reasonably possible.

## Process

2. Schools are required to:
  - 2.1. allow students to be exempt from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations without academic penalty when a request for an exemption has been made from a parent/guardian in writing in accordance with this administrative procedure;
  - 2.2. develop a process to acknowledge the receipt of exemption forms from parents;
  - 2.3. make the final decision about whether to accept or reject a request for an exemption that does not fall within the parameters set out on form F-321 (e.g., if the exemption form is returned to the school during the scheduled period of instruction rather than by the school's official submission date).

## Supervision of Exempted Students

3. Because school boards are responsible for student safety and well-being during instructional time, options for supervision must be offered. In accordance with PPM-162, parents are given the choice of how their exempted child will be supervised during the exemption period.
  - 3.1. Parents must choose one of the following options for their child:
    - 3.1.1. to be released into the care of the parent/guardian or the parent's approved designate; or,
    - 3.1.2. to remain in the classroom during the exemption period without taking part in instruction in Human Development and Sexual Health, and to be assigned work or activities by the teacher that are unrelated to Human Development and Sexual Health; or
    - 3.1.3. to leave the classroom for the duration of the instruction and remain in the school under supervision. The student's activities during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher or principal. The supervision of the student will be determined by the school according to the board's supervision requirements.

## Legal Reference

*Program Policy 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*

## RCDSB Reference

*F-321, Exemption from Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations*