

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 321	
SECTION: STUDENTS	
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Contact	Superintendent of Education – Program Services

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/guardians with a list of all Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade.
 - 1.2 Inform parents/guardians 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 (F321) for each child.
 - 1.3 Notify all parents at least twenty (20) school days before the start of the “period of instruction” (F321) related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations.
 - 1.4 F321 will inform parents/guardians 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/guardians to submit their completed exemption form or written request must not be more than five (5) 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/guardians.
- 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 F321 (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/guardians are given the choice of how their exempted child will be supervised during the exemption period.

3.1 Parents/Guardians must choose one (1) 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.
- 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.
- 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 District's supervision requirements.

LEGAL REFERENCES

Ministry of Education *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 REFERENCES

Form F321 Exemption from Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations

Procedure History

Approved:	November 2019
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