



Procedure Section: **School Administration**

**900**

Procedure Name: **Human Development and  
Sexual Health Exemptions**

**904**

## **PROCEDURE**

# **Human Development and Sexual Health Exemptions**

## **Procedure**

In accordance with Program Policy Memorandum 162 – Exemption from Instruction for students related to Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations, found in Strand D in the Ontario Curriculum Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019, and PPM 162.

## **Rationale**

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) is committed to providing programs and services to help each student achieve success. While class instructional time is the fundamental component of school programs, schools will implement a procedure that allows for students to be exempt, at the request of their parent/guardian 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.

## **Guidelines**

### 1. Academic and Assessment Requirements:

Assessment 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.

Exemptions will be granted only for instruction related 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.

References to human development and sexual health made by teachers, KPDSB staff, or students outside the intentional teaching of content related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations are not included in the exemption policy/procedure.

There will be no academic penalty for an exemption.

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' grades 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.

## 2. Notice and Communication

### Parents/Guardians:

Parents/Guardians 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/guardians to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young peoples' education.

Parents/guardians who become familiar with the health and physical education curriculum can better appreciate what is being taught in each grade and what their children are expected to learn. This awareness will enhance parents/guardians' ability to discuss their children's learning with them, communicate with their children's teachers, and ask relevant questions about their children's progress. It could also inform their decision-making about seeking an exemption under their School Board's Procedure.

**Each year**, parents/guardians will be informed of the School Board Procedure that allows for students to be exempted, at their parents/guardians' request, from instruction related to the Grade 1 to 8 Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in Strand D.

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

### a) Board:

- Maintain a procedure that allows for students to be exempt, at the request of their parents/guardians, 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;
- Maintain standard Board exemption form (live link);
- Communicate the procedure, and roles and responsibilities to school administrators annually; and
- Provide any necessary support(s) and resources to school administrators and staff.

b) Principals:

- Develop a communication plan for the school community to allow students to be exempt from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health;
- Inform parents/guardians 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/guardians in a timely manner;
- Maintain a process to acknowledge the receipt of exemption forms from parents/guardians; and
- Make the final decision about whether to accept or reject a request for an exemption that does not fall within the parameters set out in this procedure (i.e., if the exemption form is returned to the school during the scheduled period of instruction rather than by the school's official submission date, etc.).

c) Teachers:

- Use appropriate and effective teaching strategies to help students achieve the Health and Physical Education curriculum expectations;
- Inform parents/guardians of Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade level;
- Notify parents/guardians at least twenty (20) school days in advance of the period of instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations;
- Provide parents/guardians a choice to have their child(ren) exempted from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in Strand D; and
- Communicate that the deadline to receive completed exemption forms must be at least five (5) school days before the start of a period of instruction.

4. Supervision of Exempted Students

Schools are required to offer parents/guardians the following choices of how their exempt child(ren) will be supervised during the exemption period.

Parents/guardians must choose one (1) of the following options for their child:

- a) 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;
- b) 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 KPDSB's policy/procedure; or

- c) To be released into the care of the parent(s)/guardian(s), or to the parents'/guardians' approved designate.