

**THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE
POLICY MANUAL**

POLICY TITLE:

SECTION/CODE:

**Health & Physical Education Exemption
From Instruction**

School Operations D-8

APPROVAL DATE:

SUPERSEDES:

NUMBER OF PAGES:

November 11, 2019

New

1 of 2

1.0 RATIONALE

Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 162 states that, “Parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethno-cultural, spiritual and personal beliefs and traditions, and are their children’s first role model. Parents may feel that specific aspects of the revised Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019 document, which outlines all the expectations for elementary pupils in publicly funded schools in Ontario, should not be taught at school to their child(ren). The only area in which an exemption from instruction will be considered through a parental request is related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations. Providing parents/guardians with information on the Health and Physical Education curriculum will allow them to make informed decisions on their child’s education.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the board as governed by Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 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*, that a process will be developed and made available to allow parental requests for their child to be exempt from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in the Ontario Curriculum.

3.0 GUIDELINES

3.1 Notice and Communication

- Parents/guardians will be:
 - Provided with a link, on the school website, to all Human Development and Sexual Health expectations for their child’s grade annually, or a hard copy as requested
 - Informed of the ability to have their child exempt from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by completing and returning exemption form (Appendix A) for their child
 - Informed of the timeline to request an exemption
 - Notified at least 20 days before the start of the “period of instruction” related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations
 - Made aware of the schools authority to move the period of instruction to a later date in the school year in case of unforeseen events with notice being provided to parents/guardians as soon as reasonably possible

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3.2 Process

- Parents/guardians must complete “Exemption from Human Development and Sexual Health” form and return it to the school not more than 5 school days before the start of the period of instruction
- Notification of receipt and decision of the request will be made and communicated to the parents/guardians prior to the start of instruction
- Decisions made on requests that occur outside of the timelines will be done on a case by case basis

3.3 Supervision of Exempted Students

- Parents/guardians must indicate on the exemption form which option they want their child to be supervised during the exemption period:
 - Remain in the classroom working on assigned work or activities not related to Human Development and Sexual Health
 - An alternative location in the school outside of the classroom, with assigned work or activities at the discretion of the school
 - Released into the care of the parent/guardian or the parents/guardians approved designate

3.4 Assessment and Evaluation

- There will be no assessment, evaluation, or reporting of exempted students’ achievement of Human Development and Sexual expectations
- 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

APPENDIX A:
Exemption from Instruction in Human Development and Sexual Health

Having received and reviewed the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in the elementary Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum for my child's grade, I would like my child to be exempted from instruction related to these expectations, without academic penalty.

During the exemption period, I would like my child to [select one only]:

- remain in the classroom without taking part in instructional activities related to Human Development and Sexual Health. I understand that my child's activities unrelated to Human Development and Sexual Health during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher.
- leave the classroom and remain in the school under staff supervision. I understand that my child's activities during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher or principal.
- be released into my care or the care of my approved designate.

NOTE: If one of the three options above is not selected, the principal or the principal's designate will determine where in the school the child is to remain during the exemption period.

Notice of Period of Instruction*

For the 20 ____ – ____ school year, the period of instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in your child's grade will start on _____ [insert date] and end on _____ [insert date].
The daily schedule for this instruction is attached.

* In this form, the period of instruction refers to the period, including the beginning and end dates, during which instruction in Human Development and Sexual Health during health and physical education classes is delivered. This period could extend over several days or weeks, depending on individual schools' calendars and teachers' lesson plans.

I understand and agree with the following statements:

- the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D of the health and physical education curriculum are different in every grade, so I must submit a completed exemption form every school year, for each child, in order for the child to be exempted from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in that school year;
- references to or conversations about sexual health–related concepts among teachers, school staff, or other students outside formal instruction in Human Development and Sexual Health are not subject to this exemption;
- my child will continue to receive instruction related to all other elementary health and physical education curriculum expectations;

• requests for exemption made by phone, or exemption forms or written requests that do not have a parental signature, will not be accepted;

• this exemption form must be returned by _____ [enter date] for my child to be excluded from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019.

Child's Last Name

Child's First Name

Parent's/ Guardian's Name (Print)

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Grade and Class

Date

PLEASE NOTE:

You will receive an acknowledgement, from the school by _____ (insert date)

If you do not receive acknowledgement please contact:
_____ (contact name here)

Please return this signed form no later than: _____ (insert date)