

AP 211 – Health (Human Sexuality)

Background

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines with respect to the teaching of the health and career education curriculum, specifically the components related to human sexuality.

Procedures

1. Instruction related to health and sexuality must first and foremost comply with the Ministry of Education curriculum outcomes.
2. In the area of human sexuality instruction, a primary focus will be on sexual abstinence, as this is the only truly safe way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) or sexually transmitted infections (STI)
3. When human sexuality is discussed in any school district context, be that of the Health portion of the Health and Career Education (K to 7 and 8 and 9) and Planning 10 course, or any other curricular areas, the instruction and resources will be age-appropriate and promote abstinence from sexual activity.
4. Teachers who are asked questions about sensitive issues related to the curriculum will take into account the age of the students when deciding on the amount of detail to be given in the response.
5. Teachers must respect the privacy of students and will refrain from asking intrusive and personal questions about them or their family.
6. When discussing contraceptives in relation to STDs/STIs and pregnancy, students must be informed about the associated health risks and failure rates.
7. Student instruction in these areas will follow the Abbotsford School Board approved resources and curriculum. These resources are available at each school or through the START Resources Centre. Training is available to teachers instructing the curriculum within this procedure.
8. The health curriculum must be open to review by parents and the community. Students should also be encouraged to have open communication with their parents.
9. All outside speakers (on or off school-site) must be approved by the principal. Speakers must be made aware of and follow District procedures. Outside speakers will never be left alone with student(s); the teacher is responsible for the student(s) and must always be present. School-wide speakers must be approved by the Superintendent.
10. Teachers should use their professional judgment to decide if it is appropriate for students to be separated by grade for instruction.
11. Parents/guardians have the right to opt for alternate delivery of specific prescribed learning outcomes in the Health portion of the HCE or Planning 10 curriculum. [Form AP211-1 Letter to Parents re:](#)

[Sensitive Topics](#) will be distributed to parents/guardians of all students, prior to delivery of the curriculum.

12. Parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the classroom teacher. If parents choose the alternate delivery option, they will be given access to the prescribed learning outcomes and recommended learning resources as outlined in the Ministry curriculum documents. Parents will be required to provide a written explanation of how the student will complete the learning outcomes and demonstrate the knowledge of the Health topics that he/she has chosen to learn in alternative manner. Evidence of learning will be established between parent and teacher.
13. Two weeks prior to delivery of the personal development curriculum to students, a letter will be sent home advising parents they will have an opportunity to review the learning resources (Ref: [AP 211-1 Letter to Parents re Sensitive Topics](#))

Glossary of Terms

HCE	Health and Career Education
PP	Personal Planning
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection

Appendix	AP 211-1 Letter to Parents re Sensitive Topics
	AP 211-2 Letter to Outside Speakers re Sensitive Topics

References	AP 301 – Access to Students
	AP 301-1 Guest Presenter Agreement

Last Revised: May 2013

AP 211-1 Letter to Parents re Sensitive Topics

School Letterhead

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Two of the important courses your child will take during his or her school years are Health and Careers and Planning 10. These worthwhile courses, which are mandated by the BC Ministry of Education, include a variety of learning outcomes designed to address the topics of healthy living and healthy relationships. Some of these topics are often considered to be of a sensitive nature, in particular, human sexuality.

The lessons pertaining to the Health curriculum organizer have been carefully and thoughtfully prepared to help students develop and nurture healthy life practices. The primary objective is to empower students to make intelligent and informed decisions as they cope with the difficult health issues facing them today. In the area of human sexuality instruction, a strong focus will be on sexual abstinence as the only truly safe way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases is to abstain from sexual activity. In addition, contraceptives will be discussed and failure rates noted. This curriculum will be a valuable asset to students, but parents/guardians are best able to gauge the maturity level of their children and decide whether the proposed curriculum is appropriate for them.

Attached is an overview of the information to be presented in your child's classroom. You are invited to preview all the information and materials that will be presented in the classroom by contacting your child's teacher or school.

As per AP 211, "[Health \(Human Sexuality\)](#)", parents/guardians in the Abbotsford School District have the opportunity to decide if they wish to have their children receive this curriculum at home. If you wish to teach the Health curriculum at home, please contact your child's teacher to make the necessary arrangements.

If you are comfortable having your child receive this curriculum at school, please sign and return the bottom portion of this letter to your child's teacher. A student not taking part in this curriculum will be placed in an alternate instructional setting. Thank you.

Note: Please encourage your child to share with you the discussion and factual information given during these lessons. The lessons will be informative and taught in a sensitive and respectful manner. Any ethical and moral concerns or questions that may be raised during class will be referred to home for discussion and decision making.

As parent/guardian, I give permission for (Student Name) _____ to:

- attend all classes where the Health curriculum is presented.
- to have the Health curriculum taught by an alternate delivery method. I understand that it is my responsibility as a parent/guardian to make the necessary arrangements with my child's teacher.

(Parent/guardian) Name: _____
(Please Print) (Parent/guardian) Signature

Date: _____

Attachment: Overview of Health Curriculum (grade specific)

AP 211-2 Letter to Outside Speakers re Sensitive Topics

<school letterhead>

<date>

<name>

<address>

<city>, <prov>

<pc>

Dear <name>:

Re: [Administrative Procedure 211, Health \(Human Sexuality\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in speaking to our students; it is very much appreciated! We believe that it is good for students to hear from adults who are qualified to speak to the curriculum content. This can provide validation for what they have learned through the curriculum.

In the area of human sexuality instruction, a primary focus will be on sexual abstinence, as this is the only truly safe way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Therefore, we ask that all outside speakers read [Administrative Procedure 211, Health \(Human Sexuality\)](#) and agree to speak in favour of abstinence and refrain from statements that would compromise the pro-abstinence stance.

Thank you for offering your time to such a worthy cause – the future of our students!

Yours sincerely,

Principal