

Administrative Procedure 207

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES / AIDS

Background

The increasing prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and the often life-threatening nature of these diseases are a cause for deep concern. The Division and public health officials have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of students by providing medically accurate and timely information about STDs and AIDS.

It is equally important, however, that a complete education program that addresses the moral and ethic aspects of disease prevention be provided. Further, such a program must be consistent with our Catholic philosophy and be in keeping with the basic moral principles of respect and dignity for all human life, endeavouring to respond as Jesus did – in a way consistent with Gospel values.

Procedures

1. Formal classroom instruction on STDs and AIDS will be presented at appropriate grade levels and integrated into provincial Health and Career and Life Management Curriculum and the Religious Education and Christian Family Life Programs.
2. This information is to be presented in a Catholic, ethical context. It must be made clear to the students that the only way to avoid STDs is to do what one is morally obligated to do: confine genital sexual activity to monogamous marriage.
3. Given that much of the information about the use of condoms or other methods to avoid STDs is publicly available to students, the approved program of the Division will attempt to provide the correct technical information at appropriate grade levels, using the Catholic ethical context.
4. School personnel will explain the rationale of this program to parents and to any other interested stakeholders prior to the introduction of the unit.
5. Parents will be encouraged to become familiar with the information being presented to their children at various grade levels.
6. Staff in-service sessions will be conducted initially and on an ongoing basis as required.
7. Use of community resource personnel is encouraged, as long as the presentation is done in a manner respectful of the Catholic moral and ethical position.
8. Resources used in teaching of units involving STDs/AIDS or related areas must be approved by the Superintendent and the Principal or designate. A list of approved resources will be made available to the school.

9. Parents may opt to withdraw their children from instructional classes on STDs/AIDS by written request to the teacher.

Reference: Section 11, 18, 32, 33, 41, 52, 53, 58, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Alberta Bill of Rights
Alberta Human Rights Act
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12