

AP 211

Alternative Delivery of the BC Health Education Curriculum

Background

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines with respect to the teaching of the physical and health education curriculum (K-10), specifically the components related to human sexuality.

The District provides the opportunity for students, upon request of their parents, to opt for an alternative delivery of instruction with regard to specific learning standards in the Health Education Curriculum of Physical and Health Education K-10. The student, their parents and school staff work in partnership to ensure that the learning outcomes of the health curriculum standards are achieved through this alternative delivery. This administrative procedure recognizes that the BC Health Education curriculum addresses topics which may be sensitive for some students and their parents. It acknowledges the family as the primary educator in the development of children's attitudes, standards, and values, but it still requires that all learning standards be addressed and assessed in the agreed-upon alternative manner of delivery. The school plays a developmental role and works closely with parents and students in the achievement of these learning outcomes.

Procedures

Alternative delivery is a formal process whereby parents may request that their child not participate in classes where topics related to reproduction and sexuality within the curriculum standards of Physical & Health Education K-10 are discussed. Instead, the student will address these topics in an alternative manner such as home instruction, independent directed study or distributed learning. The time and effort required of the student through alternative delivery is to be similar to that provided through regular classroom instruction. It is important to note the significance of the term "alternative delivery" as it relates to the Alternative Delivery policy. The policy does not permit schools to omit any of the learning standards within the Physical and Health Education curriculum. Neither does it allow students to be excused from meeting any learning standards related to health. It is expected that students who arrange for alternative delivery will address the health-related learning standards and will be able to demonstrate their understanding of these learning standards.

1. In the area of human sexuality instruction, options for healthy sexual decision-making, including the benefits of abstinence, will be taught. (*note: benefits of abstinence is not identified in the K-10 content*)
2. When human sexuality is discussed in Physical and Health Education K-12, e instruction and resources will be age-appropriate.
3. 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 or designate

4. Teachers should use their professional judgment to decide if it is appropriate for students to be separated by grade and/or by gender for instruction.
5. [Form AP 211-1 Letter to Parents re: Sensitive Topics](#) will be distributed to parents/guardians of all students, prior to delivery of the curriculum.
6. 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 Physical and Health Curriculum Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies and Content. Parents will be required to provide a written explanation of how the student will achieve the learning standard and demonstrate knowledge of the health topics that they have chosen to learn in an alternative manner.
7. Evidence of learning will be established between the parent and teacher. The teacher will determine whether the learning standards have been achieved. The report card comments will indicate the part of the course which was completed outside of the classroom.

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](#)

AP 211-1 Letter to Parents re Sensitive Topics

<<School Letterhead>>

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As part of the Physical and Health Education Curriculum K-10, human sexuality will be covered in your child's classroom. The lessons pertaining to the health curriculum 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, options for healthy sexual decision-making, including the benefits of abstinence, will be taught. 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. You can also view the prescribed learning outcomes as per the Ministry of Education and Child Care on their website: [Physical and Health Education | Building Student Success - B.C. Curriculum \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/education/curriculum_framework/physical_and_health_education/building_student_success_b.c.curriculum)

As per [AP 211 Alternative Delivery of the BC Health Education Curriculum](#), parents/guardians in the Abbotsford School District have the opportunity to decide if they wish to have their children receive this curriculum through an alternate delivery model. 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 the Physical and 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 Alternative Delivery of the BC Health Education Curriculum](#)

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. Students also need to be taught other options for making healthy sexual decisions. We ask that all outside speakers read [Administrative Procedure 211 Alternative Delivery of the BC Health Education Curriculum](#) and agree to follow the outlined procedures.

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

Yours sincerely,

Principal