

Egale

Opting Out Information Resource



As parents/caregivers, you play a crucial role in your child's education, safety, and well-being at school. We understand that as a parent, you want to prepare your child with the tools they need to be successful, and we want to support you to do just that.

This resource highlights the value of human development and sexual health lessons to help you make the best decision for you and your child.

The Value of Our Curriculum for Every Student

- **It is crucial that students receive accurate and up to date information.** The classroom discussions help students develop skills and strategies that ensure their safety and wellbeing throughout their lives.
- **The topics discussed help students to understand human diversity** and related information commonly encountered in the news, pop culture, social media, sports, tv shows, and from their peers.
- **The curriculum creates an inclusive learning environment** by representing all experiences and identities, including those of heterosexual and cisgender students and families.
- **The curriculum** developed by the Ministry of Education **involves input from multiple stakeholders** including educators, parents, students, health experts, and community organizations.

Clearing Up Misconceptions about the Curriculum

- **The sexual health section is a very small** part of a much larger curriculum, consisting of 3-5 lessons the entire year.
- **Learning about gender and sexual diversity will not make your child 2SLGBTQI.** Classroom discussions are designed to help children develop the skills and knowledge to become responsible and informed citizens. The lessons are not designed to replace family values or influence children's identity.
- **The curriculum is designed to introduce age-appropriate topics** progressively with the student's prior knowledge and maturity in mind.
- **There is a difference between sex education and learning about gender and sexual diversity.** Sex education aims to inform students about their bodies, health, consent, and safe practices. Learning about gender and sexual diversity aims to promote understanding, acceptance, and support for diverse identities.

The Impact & Harm of Opting Out

- This unit is about sexual health and wellbeing. **If students are not in the classroom, they may also miss out on topics related to consent, family planning, and healthy relationships.**
- **When sex education is restricted youth remain curious** and will seek answers to their questions, but they risk finding incorrect or incomplete answers.

One of the main goals of education is to empower students to learn about and engage with the diverse world in which they live.

We are here to support you and your child in making informed choices about their educational experience.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to your administration, school board, or us directly at Egale for more information.

For more information & resources, please visit our website egale.ca

