

PPM 162: Parent Fact Sheet and Due Process Checklist

[Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019](#)

This fact sheet and Due Process Checklist will help you understand your parental rights around PPM 162. You may not wish to have your child exempted but PPM 162 is an important step forward for parental rights and we want to ensure that schools are following their obligations. This is an opportunity for you as a parent to hold the school system accountable and ensure your rights are affirmed.

Read through this fact sheet (it is shorter than PPM 162) and then go to the Due Process Checklist which asks you some simple questions. If the answer is no - to any of them - your school or school board has not met its obligations to you as a parent. Download a copy of PPM 162 - the section headings below are keyed to the section headings in PPM 162. Check the section that concerns you. Call (or email) your school and ask the Principal of the school why the school hasn't provided what was required of it? Keep your questions respectful and make notes or save the emails..

Purpose and Scope

- School boards must develop and implement a policy or procedure that allows for students to be exempted, at the request of their parents, from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations found in strand D of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019.
- Exemptions are limited to instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations found in strand D.
- Students will not be exempted from instruction related to any other expectations in this curriculum or related to expectations in other curriculum subjects.
- Exemptions will be granted only for instruction related to all the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in a student's grade, and not for instruction related to selected expectations or groups of expectations.
- References to human development and sexual health made by teachers, board staff, or students outside the intentional teaching of content related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations are not included in the exemption policy/procedure.
- There will be no academic penalty for an exemption.

- 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.

Responsibilities

- **Parents** are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethnocultural, spiritual, and personal beliefs and traditions, and are their children's first role models.
- **Parents** who become familiar with the health and physical education curriculum can better appreciate what is being taught in each grade and what their children are expected to learn. This awareness will enhance parents' ability to discuss their children's learning with them, to communicate with their children's teachers, and to ask relevant questions about their children's progress. It could also inform their decision making about seeking an exemption under their school board's policy/procedure.
- **Teachers** are responsible for using appropriate and effective teaching strategies to help students achieve the health and physical education curriculum expectations. The attitude with which teachers approach student learning in health and physical education is critical, as teachers are important role models for students.
- As part of effective teaching practice, teachers communicate with parents about what their children are learning. Communication enables parents to work in partnership with the school, promoting discussion, follow-up at home, and student learning in a family context.
- **Principals** are community builders who create a healthy and safe school environment that is welcoming to all, and who ensure that all members of the school community are kept well informed.
- **Principals** work in partnership with teachers and parents to ensure that each student has access to the best possible educational experience.
- **Teachers and Principals** must follow their school board's policy/procedure that allows for students to be exempted, at their parents' request, from instruction related to the Grade 1 to 8 Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in strand D.

Minimum Requirements

Notice and Communications

- provide parents with a list of all Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade;
- inform parents that they can choose to have their child or children exempted
- make a standard exemption form available to parents every school year
- notify all parents at least twenty school days before the start of the “period of instruction” related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations.
- inform parents of the date by which the completed exemption form or written request must be submitted The deadline for parents to submit their completed exemption form must not be more than five school days before the start of the period of instruction;
- in the case of an unforeseen event, school boards and schools have the authority to move the period of instruction to a later date and must give notice of the change to parents as soon as reasonably possible.

Process

- allow students to be exempt when a request for an exemption has been made from a parent in writing.
- acknowledge the receipt of exemption forms from parents.
- make the final decision about whether to accept or reject a request for an exemption that does not fall within the parameters set out in memorandum 162 (e.g., if the exemption form is returned to the school during the scheduled period of instruction rather than by the school’s official submission date).

Supervision of Exempted Students

- parents be given the choice of how their exempted child will be supervised during the exemption period. Parents must choose one of the following options for their child:
 - to remain in the classroom during the exemption period without taking part in instruction
 - to leave the classroom for the duration of the instruction
 - to be released into the care of the parent or the parent’s approved designate.

Implementation

- School boards must implement their exemption policy/procedure and make it publicly available on their website before the period of instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health in the 2019–20 school year, and no later than November 30, 2019.

- If an exemption policy/procedure is not implemented in a school board by November 30, 2019, then the provisions outlined in this memorandum can be used on a temporary basis until the school board's policy/procedure is in place.
- PPM 162 contains a Sample Exemption Form that can be used in the absence of the school board developing one.

Due Process Checklist

- Did you receive a list of all Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade from your school or school board?
- Were you informed that you could request an exemption?
- Was a standard exemption form made available to you?
- Were you notified at least 20 school days before the start of the "period of instruction" related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations?
- Were you informed of the date by which the completed exemption form or written request must be submitted.
- Has your school provided an opportunity for you to discuss the Health and Physical Education curriculum with your child's teacher?
- Are you satisfied with the level of communication your child's teacher has provided regarding what is being taught in the Health and Physical Education curriculum?
- Does your school recognize your right as your child's primary educator? Does your child's teacher and Principal listen to your views and accommodate where possible?

If the answer to one or more of the questions above is 'no' then you can follow the next steps listed below:

Next Steps

1. Download a copy of [PPM 162](#) (simply click on '[PPM 162](#)')
2. Find and highlight the appropriate statements in PPM 162 that correspond to what area(s) on this fact sheet have not been addressed by the school. You can use the headings on this fact sheet which correspond to the headings on PPM 162.
3. Call or email the teacher or principal and ask why? It's best to start with the teacher first. Be polite and concise.
4. Keep notes or your emails as you may wish to take your concerns to the school's Superintendent, should the issue not be resolved.