

Sunrise School Division

Sunrise Procedure

Procedure Number - 5500

Procedure Title	Sensitive Issues		
Date of Issue	March 2007	Related Procedure	
Revision Dates		Related Forms	
Review Date	March 2009	Originator	Board of Trustees

Rationale

Student learning outcomes in the Kindergarten to Senior 4 Physical Education/Health Education Manitoba Curriculum Framework of Outcomes for Active Healthy Lifestyles have been developed to address the five major health-risk issues:

1. Inadequate physical activity
2. Unhealthy dietary behaviours
3. Drug use, including alcohol and tobacco
4. Sexual behaviours that result in sexually transmitted diseases/infections and unintended pregnancies
5. Behaviours that result in intentional and unintentional injuries.

The curriculum provides students with the knowledge and skills to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Some of the content and issues pertaining to the student learning outcomes may be potentially sensitive for some students, their parents/families and/or communities. This sensitivity may be based on family, religious, and/or cultural values. The three strands that may contain potentially sensitive specific student learning outcomes are: Human Sexuality, Substance Use and Abuse Prevention, and the Personal Safety sub-strand within Safety of Self and Others.

These outcomes are intended to act as a supplement to information and training the students may receive from their parents; therefore, the cooperation of parents is essential to the successful implementation of the health program.

Policy

The following options will be considered for the delivery of the "Active Healthy Lifestyles Outcomes" of the provincial K-S4 Physical/Health Education Curriculum.

1. School based curriculum implementation
2. Home based curriculum implementation
3. School based 'Alternative' curriculum implementation

Curriculum Implementation:

The following guidelines have been developed to give specific direction to early, middle, and senior years professional staff involved in the delivery of potentially sensitive learning outcomes of the Kindergarten to Senior 4 Physical Education/Health Education Program:

1. Communication between the school and home is essential. Parents need to be informed of the potentially sensitive topics to be covered prior to program delivery at each grade level. The school will be responsible for sending a letter of information, including a schedule of topics, to the parent/guardian of each student to be signed and returned to school.
2. Parents are to be informed of the option to review all teaching/resource materials that professional staff use to teach the curriculum related to the potentially sensitive learning outcomes of the Kindergarten to Senior 4 Physical Education/Health Education Program. Parents can find further information related to the Health Curriculum through the Manitoba Education, Training and Youth website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/cur/physhlth/curriculum/html
3. The Kindergarten to Senior 4 Physical Education/Health Education Program will be presented to students unless parents/guardians wish to have their child/children opt out of lessons relating to potentially sensitive outcomes by informing the school's administration.
 - a. If the parent/guardian has opted out of the school-based program, it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to deliver these outcomes in a way that meets their value system (i.e., home, professional counselling, etc.).
 - b. If numbers can be accommodated in the school organization, in consultation with administration, staff, and parents, a school may offer an alternative delivery of these outcomes providing:
 - i. Materials are divisionally approved
 - ii. A staff member is available to teach the material
 - iii. The planning process is in alignment with the course schedule of the school.
 - c. If the above conditions cannot be met, parents have the ability to utilize "Option A".
4. Student questions that are beyond the scope of the outcomes covered in the Manitoba Education Framework of Outcomes and Foundation for Implementation documents are to be referred to parents/guardians.
5. All personnel delivering the Kindergarten to Senior 4 Physical Education/Health Curriculum shall receive professional development.
6. Schools may choose trained personnel from outside agencies such as public health, the RCMP, et cetera to support and/or deliver sensitive topics in the curriculum. Parents must be informed of this choice through an information letter.

7. No evaluation of student performance relating to the sensitive learning outcomes in the curriculum will occur.
8. A divisional resource committee made up of guidance, health, and administrative representatives will be established to develop department approved instructional resource kits to support the delivery of potentially sensitive outcomes from the Kindergarten to Senior 4 Physical Education/Health Curriculum. These resource kits will be accessible to all schools and updated as required. The opportunity will be available for community members to make recommendations for additional materials to be added to the kits.
9. In recognition of individual school populations, multi-age or blended student groupings, and/or class composition, the sensitive issues outcomes at one grade level may be continued and/or reviewed at the next grade level.