

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

Generally

The Albemarle County School Board has approved the Albemarle County Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum. The curriculum is organized and maintained under the FLE guidelines developed by the Virginia Department of Education. The high school FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence and may include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity and age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the law and meaning of consent. The FLE curriculum offered in any school incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that he respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals.

The FLE curriculum may incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.

The Albemarle County Public School Board must first approve all materials used in the Family Life curriculum.

Community Involvement Team

Under procedures approved by the School Board, a community involvement team is established. The team may include, but is not limited to, school administrators, teachers, parents, clergy, medical professionals, mental health professionals and others in the community. The community involvement team may be the division's School Health Advisory Board.

Staff Training

Teachers in the FLE program participate in yearly professional learning opportunities sponsored by the school division.

Separate Sessions

A plan for teaching sensitive conduct in gender-separated classes is announced publicly.

“Opt-out” Procedures

An “opt-out” procedure is provided to ensure communication with the parent or guardian for permission for students to be excused from all or part of the program.

Annual Review

The FLE curriculum is reviewed annually. Such review allows for community input.

Right of Parental Review

A parent or guardian has the right to review the family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in the program.

The School Board develops and distributes to the parents or guardians of students participating in the FLE program a summary designed to assist them in understanding the program implemented in its school division and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of the students. Such information reflects the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. The following statement is included on the summary: “Parents and guardians have the right to review the family life education program offered by their school division, including written and audio-visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of family life education instruction.”

Adopted: July 1, 1993
 Amended: May 24, 1999; December 8, 2011; February 25, 2016; September 14, 2017;
 September 18, 2018
 Reviewed: September 23, 2004

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§22.1-207.1:1, 22.1-207.2

8VAC20-131-170

Virginia Department of Education, Family Life Education: Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools (revised September, 2016)

Cross Refs: BCF, Advisory Committees to the School Board
 IIA, Instructional Materials
 INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues
 KLB, Public Complaints About Learning Resources

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be followed in administering the Family Life Education program.

1. At the beginning of each school year, a Family Life Education information and opt-out letter will be sent to all families of student in grades K-8 as well as Health 1 and Health 2. The information and opt-out letter will be distributed to parents two times yearly as outlined below:
 - a. at the beginning of the school year, and
 - b. again immediately prior to the teaching of the Family Life Education unit.

2. Parents shall have the right to review the complete family life curriculum, including all supplemental materials used in Family Life Education. Albemarle County Public Schools will provide a format for parents to learn about the Family Life Education program. Parents wishing to preview the Family Life Education curriculum and materials may do so by appointment. A complete copy of all printed materials and a description of all audio-visual materials shall be kept in the school library or office and made available for review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials shall be made available to parents for review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

3. In accordance with the Virginia State Board of Education Regulations, an “opt-out” procedure is provided to ensure communication with the parent/guardian for permission for students to be excused from all or part of the program. A student in grades K-8 as well as Health 1 and Health 2 may choose to “opt-out” from all or part of the program. This option is available at any time during the school year before their child's Family Life Education program starts. Any alternative selected must be designed for the student to work independently. The alternatives for a student “opting out” of Family Life Education will be as follows:
 - a. The student may complete a non-Family-Life-oriented unit of health study with requirements that are mutually agreed upon by the parent/guardian and the Family Life Education teacher.

 - b. A student in grades 6-10 may also participate in a Family Life-oriented unit of health study based exclusively on materials to be specifically designated for this purpose by the School Board with requirements that are mutually agreed upon by the parent/guardian and the Family Life Education teacher.

In either case, the work completed will be assessed in a manner that is consistent with the normal practice in the school. The “opt-out” procedure is explained in the Family Life Education informational and opt-out letter. If the parent/guardian desires to remove their

child from any or all portions of the program, they must return the “opt-out” form to the school principal.

4. The School Board has instructed the Superintendent, staff, and school personnel to continue to work positively and cooperatively with the parents and students who choose not to participate in any or all portions of the approved Family Life Education program. Schools will make every effort to avoid stigmas attached to individuals who have “opted out” of the Family Life program. The following are items that need to be arranged at the local school level provided that they do not interfere with the functions of the regular school day program:
 - a. adequate supervision
 - b. monitoring of class attendance
 - c. an appropriate work space

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: September 12, 1994; June 26, 1995; May 24, 1999; September 23, 2004;
September 18, 2018

Reviewed: September 14, 2017