

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.

Community Involvement Team

Under procedures approved by the School Board, a community involvement team is established. The team includes but is not limited to school administrators, teachers, parents, clergy, medical professionals, mental health professionals and others in the community.

Staff Training

Teachers in the FLE program participate in the training program sponsored by the Department of Education.

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
 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 ~~June 2011 Updated December 2014~~)

~~(http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/family_life/familylife_guidelines_standards.pdf)~~

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

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

1. At the beginning of the school year, individualized Family Life Education curricula brochures are sent to all parents for each grade level. The middle and high school brochures will be distributed to parents at the beginning of the school year and then again prior to the teaching of the FLE unit.
2. All Albemarle County Schools will provide a format for parents to learn about the Family Life Education program and review the materials. Arrangements will be made by the individual schools.
3. In accordance with the Virginia State Board of Education Regulations, an "opt-out" procedure shall be provided to ensure communication with the parent or guardian for permission for students to be excused from all or part of the program. This option is available to parents and guardians at any time during the school year before their child's FLE program starts.

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 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 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 grade level brochure, and if parents' desire to remove their child from any or all portions of the program, they are asked to return the opt-out form to the school principal/designee.

Any alternative selected must be designed for the student to work independently.

4. Parents shall have the right to review the complete family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in the family life education program. A complete copy of all printed materials and a description of all audio-visual materials shall be kept in the school media center or office and made available for review to parents 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 material are made available. In

addition, parents wishing to preview the audio-visual materials used during the teaching of the family life unit may do so by appointment.

Test and exam questions pertaining to the Albemarle County FLE curriculum will not be required for those in an alternative course of study.

Materials completed by students in the opt-out program will be submitted to the teacher as agreed upon.

5. 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 FLE 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:

- adequate supervision
- monitoring of class attendance
- an appropriate work space

Schools should make every effort to avoid any and all stigmas attached to individuals who have opted out of the FLE curriculum.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Amended: September 12, 1994; June 26, 1995; May 24, 1999; September 23, 2004