

## 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 SOL objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships are taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school. 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, including sexual harassment using electronic means, and sexual violence, human trafficking, and the law and meaning of consent. ~~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.~~ Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence may include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity. 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 the student~~he~~ respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. The FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful and physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation; associated criminal penalties; and the rights of the victim, including any civil action pursuant to Va. Code §8.01-42.5.

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. The School Board reviews its Family Life Education curricula at least once every seven years, evaluates whether the curricula reflects contemporary community standards, and revises the curricula if necessary.

### 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.~~

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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. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials is made available through any available parental portal and 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 are made available to parents for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available. Contact your school principal to review materials that are unavailable on the Division website due to copyright laws.

The School Board develops and distributes to the parents or guardians of students participating in the FLE program and posts for public viewing on the Division’s website 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

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

~~— 8VAC20-131-170~~

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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*

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## FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROCEDURES

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

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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.

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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.

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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.~~

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~~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.~~

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~~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:~~

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- ~~a. adequate supervision~~
- ~~b. monitoring of class attendance~~
- ~~c. an appropriate work space~~

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~~Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_ July 1, 1993~~

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

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~~Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ September 14, 2017~~

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