

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Family Life Education (FLE) Guidelines**

**Curriculum**

- Only School Board approved grade-specific curriculum may be used for Family Life Education (FLE) instruction.
- FLE objectives are included in health and counseling instruction at the elementary level. The scope of the program includes lessons in family living and community relationships; emotional and social health; and human growth and reproduction. The topics of abortion, contraception, homosexuality, and masturbation are not included as a part of FLE instruction at this level.
- FLE objectives are included in health, counseling, and family and consumer science instruction at the middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12) levels. The scope of the program includes lessons in emotional and social health and human growth and reproduction. Emphasis is placed on the value of abstinence as the appropriate choice for teenagers. The topic of abortion may not be included as part of FLE instruction at grade 6. Questions related to homosexuality and birth control are discussed only in the context of sexually transmitted infection education.
- The School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) serves as the FLE Community Involvement Team and participates in the review and revision of curriculum.
- Only those instructional materials and media identified in the Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) FLE curriculum are approved for use.
- Local agencies, organizations, and support systems may be used as resources in developing the FLE curriculum.
- PWCS does not endorse the use of non-PWCS programs in FLE.

**Implementation**

- Classroom teachers (elementary teachers; grades 6 and 7 science teachers; grades 8-10 Health and P.E. teachers; and teachers of identified elective courses) and counselors are responsible for FLE instruction.
- School nurses and mental health professionals may be involved, where appropriate, to assist in teaching the content of the FLE curriculum and to serve as a resource to students and teachers.
- Classes in human growth and reproduction are sex-separate at elementary grades 4-5 and middle school grades 6-8.
- Due to the controversial nature of FLE objectives, PWCS does not permit non-PWCS personnel to present FLE instruction.
- The classroom teacher must remain in the classroom at all times during FLE instruction.
- FLE should be addressed in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for students with disabilities as appropriate.
- FLE may be taught throughout the year or as an identified unit during the year.

### **Viewing Sensitive Materials**

- Parents should have the opportunity to review curriculum and instructional materials annually prior to the beginning of actual instruction. Schools may choose to schedule video preview events.
- A complete copy of all printed materials and a description of all audio-visual materials are kept in the school library or office and made available for review during school hours before and during the school year.

### **Notification to Parents**

- Objectives in the FLE curriculum are posted on the Science and Family Life Education web page at <http://pwcs.science.schoolfusion.us/>.
- Principals should use the August and September editions of their school newsletters and/or post information on the school web site during the months of August and September to notify parents about how the opt-out letter is being sent home and when parents should expect it.

### **Opt Out Procedures**

- An opt-out procedure is provided to ensure communication with the parent or guardian for permission to excuse a student from all or part of the sensitive content lessons. Parents are encouraged to review the descriptions of the objectives of the FLE curriculum at each grade level before exercising the opt-out procedure.
- The parent letter and opt-out form is included in the PWCS Student Code of Conduct which is distributed to all students on the first day of each school year.
- Parents may exercise the opt-out procedure for any of the FLE sensitive content lessons by returning the opt-out form to the appropriate teacher any time during the school year. Opt out forms should be kept on file in the administrative office.
- Students who opt-out must be provided with nonpunitive, grade-level appropriate instruction in non-FLE related areas.
- A parent may reverse his or her decision and opt a child back into the program by providing written notification to the principal.

### **Professional Development**

- Individuals who teach FLE must be trained in its content, teaching strategies, use of instructional materials, assessment methods, and ways to involve parents. Teachers must receive initial FLE professional development and should participate in ongoing training in order to remain current with FLE-related research.
- Professional development activities are based on information, resources, and materials made available through the Virginia Department of Education.
- Supervisors responsible for curriculum and program areas in which FLE is included should coordinate the creating and delivery of professional development offerings for teachers of FLE.