

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.

Instructional Materials

All instructional materials used in Family Life Education (FLE) must be approved by the School Board. The review process shall allow for community input.

Separate Sessions

Classes in the FLE program which deal exclusively with human sexuality are to be conducted in separate sessions for boys and girls.

Participation Procedures

The Superintendent will develop procedures in accordance with the Virginia Board of Education, guidelines for Family Life Education. An “opt-out” procedure ~~which~~ will give parents or guardians the option of whether or not they want their children included in all or part of the FLE ~~program~~.

Disabled Students

The Superintendent or a Designee shall develop a plan for including Family Life Education in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) of disabled students.

Right of Parental Review

A parent or guardian will have the right to review the Family Life curriculum, including all supplemental materials used in the 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 any parent or guardian during school hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials shall be made available from the Division Media Center Manager upon request.

The division will prepare and distribute a summary of the Family Life program designed to assist the parent in understanding the program and to encourage parental involvement in the instruction of students in family life education.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Amended: May 24, 1999
Reviewed: September 23, 2004

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 22.1-207.1, 22.1-207.2
~~Regulations of the Virginia State Board of Education, 8VAC20-131-170; Family Life Education~~
~~VR 270-07-0012~~
~~Regulations of the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare~~
~~Title IX Regulation implementing Education Amendments of 1972~~
~~Prohibiting Sex Discrimination in Education, Section 86.34C~~

Virginia Department of Education, Family Life Education: Board of Education Guidelines and
Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools (revised 2009)
(http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/family_life/familylife_guidelines_standards.pdf)

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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' desires 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 at the Albemarle Resource Center 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