

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

Background

The District recognizes the need for schools to provide students with current and medically accurate educational information and instruction on sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

The increasing prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS and the life-threatening nature of these diseases is a cause for deep concern. The District and public health officials have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of our youth by providing medically accurate and timely information to students about STIs and HIV/AIDS.

It is equally important that a complete educational program addressing the moral and ethical aspects of disease prevention be provided. Further, such a program must be consistent with our Catholic beliefs and be in keeping with the basic moral principles of respect and dignity for all human life.

Guidelines

1. Formal classroom instruction on STIs and HIV/AIDS will be presented at the appropriate grade levels and integrated into provincial health curriculum and the religious education and Christian Family Life programs (See Appendix I).
2. This information should be presented in a moral and ethical context. It must be made clear to the students that the only way to avoid STIs is to do what one is morally obligated to do - confine genital sexual activity to monogamous marriage.
3. Given that much of the information about the use of condoms or other methods to avoid STIs is publicly available to students, the approved program of the Board will attempt to provide the correct technical information at appropriate grade levels using a moral and ethical context.
4. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the information being presented to their children at various grade levels.
5. Staff inservice sessions will be conducted on an ongoing basis as required.
6. Use of community resource personnel is acceptable as long as the presentation is done in a manner respectful of the District's moral and ethical position.
7. Resources used in the teaching of units involving STIs/HIV/AIDS or related areas must be approved by the Superintendent and the school administration. A list of approved resources will be made available to the school.

8. Parents may opt to withdraw their children from instructional classes on HIV/AIDS by written request to the teacher.

Reference: Section 50, School Act
HIV/AIDS in Education Settings Directive 4.1.1
Human Sexuality Education Directive 4.1.2
Health and Life Skills Alberta Catholic Schools: Human Sexuality Outcomes Grade 4-9

INTEGRATION OF INSTRUCTION ON STDs AND AIDS INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Curriculum Areas

1. The Grade 6 Christian Family Life/Health Program. Outcome W-6.6.
2. The Grade 8 Christian Family Life/Health Program. Outcome W-8.13
3. The Grade 9 Christian Family Life/Health Program Outcome W-9.12B
4. The Religious Studies 15 program “Christ and Culture”. unit 5, theme 13.
5. The Religious Studies 25 program in the sections “Religious Issues in Contemporary Society”.
6. The Religious Studies 35 program “In Search of the Good” chapter 16 Marriage Matters.
7. Career and Life Management, General Outcome 1: Personal Choices.
8. Other grade levels and in other subject areas as a basis to answer student questions concerning STIs as they arise.

Basic Resources

1. Health and Life Skills Alberta Catholic Schools: Human Sexuality Outcomes, Grade 4-9. (Approved supplementary resources are found within this document).
2. RS15 religion text “Christ and Culture” (National office of Religious Education).
3. RS 25 local religion program.
4. RS 35 religion text “In Search of the Good” (National Office of Religious Education).
5. Career and Life Management, Catholic School Resource (pending).