



Lincoln Public Schools  
Lincoln, MA 01773

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## PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, the Lincoln School Committee adopts the following policy on the rights of parents and guardians of our students in relation to health curriculum that includes human sexual education or human sexuality issues:

At the beginning of each school year, each school will send parents/guardians a letter that describes the topics in our health curriculum that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the letter at the time of enrollment. If curriculum topics change during the school year parents/guardians will, to the extent practicable, be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each letter to parents/guardians will include a topical description of the curriculum covered by this policy. This letter will also inform parents/guardians that they may:

- (1) exempt their child from any lesson(s) that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a note to the school Principal requesting an exemption. A student who is exempted under this policy may be given an alternative, and
- (2) review instructional materials used to explore topics of sex education. These materials will be made accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the Principal to review the materials at the school, or other locations agreed upon by the Principal.

The Superintendent of schools will instruct each principal to send this letter of notification by September 15 of each school year. ~~(In 1997-98, the mailing was delayed by the drafting and approval of these guidelines, a fact which the Committee regrets.)~~ A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue. The Superintendent or designee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision. A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision, may send a written request to the School Committee for review of the issue. The School Committee will review the issue and give the parent/ guardian a timely written decision, preferably within four weeks of the request. A parent/ guardian who is still dissatisfied after this process may send a written request to the Commissioner of Education for review of the issue in dispute.

Adopted at School Committee meeting of December 1, 1997  
Revised at School Committee meeting of

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**PART I** ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**TITLE XII** EDUCATION**CHAPTER 71** PUBLIC SCHOOLS**Section 32A** Sex education; policy regarding notice to parents, exception

Section 32A. Every city, town, regional school district or vocational school district implementing or maintaining curriculum which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues shall adopt a policy ensuring parental/guardian notification. Such policy shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum through written notification to the school principal. No child so exempted shall be penalized by reason of such exemption.

Said policy shall be in writing, formally adopted by the school committee as a school district policy and distributed by September first, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and each year thereafter to each principal in the district. A copy of each school district's policy must be sent to the department of education after adoption.

To the extent practicable, program instruction materials for said curricula shall be made reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and others for inspection and review.

The department of education shall promulgate regulations for adjudicatory proceedings to resolve any and all disputes arising under this section.