

## **Health and Physical Education**

### **FAQ**

#### **What is the revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum?**

The Health and Physical Education curriculum guides teachers as they help all students gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead healthy, active lives. The curriculum is not brand new – it has just been updated. The majority of the curriculum has been taught in our schools since 1998. The development of this curriculum has been informed by research, advice from academics and experts in many fields of study (including mental health, public health, sexual health, physical education, kinesiology) and discussions with parents, teachers and students.

#### **When will the new curriculum be taught in HWDSB schools?**

The revised curriculum will begin to be implemented in September 2015. However, sexual health won't be taught until spring 2016.

#### **How will parents know when sexual health will be taught?**

At the classroom level, parents want to know when this subject is talked about in class. All HWDSB schools will send parent letters home at each grade level at least **one month** before teachers cover sexual health in the curriculum.

#### **Where can I find more information on the new Health and Physical Education Curriculum?**

The Ministry of Education has prepared parent materials in multiple languages. Some of the key resources being provided include:

- Copies of the elementary and secondary Health and Physical Education curriculum
- Parent Guides for Health and Physical Education
- Grade by Grade Overviews for Parents of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Health and Physical Education Quick Facts for Parents

These are online at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html> (for an elementary focus) and <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/health.html> (for a secondary focus).

#### **Will there be parents sessions if I have questions about the new curriculum?**

Yes, there are three information sessions. This is an opportunity for parents to ask questions, have their questions addressed and learn more about the curriculum.

Please feel free to attend any of the information sessions below:



**Wednesday, November 4**

**Dr. Davey Elementary** 99 Ferguson Ave. N., Hamilton from 3:30 – 5 p.m.

**Thursday, November 5**

**Saltfleet Secondary** 108 Highland Rd. W., Stoney Creek from 7 – 9 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 10. Sir Allan MacNab Secondary**

145 Magnolia Dr., Hamilton from 7 – 9 p.m.

**What if I don't believe this content is age-appropriate for my child?**

We will respectfully and sensitively address your questions and concerns about the material outlined in the curriculum. We encourage you to have a discussion with your child's teacher to learn more about the instructional practices and resources that will be used to teach your child. If, after speaking to the teacher, you still have concerns about how sexual health will be taught, please connect with your child's Principal.

**How can I request that my child opt out of the class?**

All HWDSB schools will send parent letters home at each grade level at least **one month** before teachers cover sexual health in the curriculum. If, after speaking to the teacher, you still believe your child should be exempt from lessons on sexual health, please connect with your child's Principal. Our staff will strive to find a resolution on a case-by-case basis.

**Will my child be penalised for missing learning if they do not participate in sexual health lessons?**

Students will not be penalised for missing learning.