

Background

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* states:

- (1) *A board shall provide notice to a parent of a student where courses, programs of study, or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality.*
- (2) *Where a teacher or other person providing instruction, teaching a course or program of study or using the instructional materials referred to in subsection (1) receives a written request signed by a parent of a student that the student be excluded from the instruction, course or program of study or use of instructional materials, the teacher or other person shall, in accordance with the request of the parent, permit the student, without academic penalty, (a) to leave the classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place or the instructional materials are being used for the duration of the part of the instruction, course or program of study, or the use of the instructional materials, that includes the subject-matter referred to in subsection (1), or (b) to remain in the classroom or place without taking part in the instruction, course or program of study or using the instructional materials.*
- (3) *This section does not apply to incidental or indirect references to religion, religious themes or human sexuality in a course, program of study, instruction or exercises or in the use of instructional materials.*

Procedures

1. Course content primarily and explicitly addressing Religion, Human Sexuality and or Sexual Orientation.
 - 1.1 Aboriginal Studies 10 - Theme II: Aboriginal Worldviews -- religion
Career and Life Management (CALM) -- human sexuality
Career and Technology Studies (CTS) - Reproduction & Readiness for Parenting (HCS3050) -- human sexuality
Career and Technology Studies (CTS) - Developing Maturity & Independence (HSS1040) -- human sexuality
Health and Life Skills (Grades 4 through 9) -- human sexuality
Religious Ethics 20 -- religion
Religious Meanings 20 -- religion
World Religions 30 -- religion
 - 1.1.1 Schools will adopt procedures to ensure parents of students in these courses are informed of their rights a minimum of one week prior to instruction.
 - 1.1.2 Schools will use Form 6-20 – Notice Form under Section 58.1 of the *Education Act*, to provide notice to parents.
 - 1.2 Schools who provide instruction in other courses mentioned in the Guide to Education and or Locally Developed Courses that include outcomes that primarily and explicitly deal with topics of Religion (including elementary school religious studies, courses or programs), Human Sexuality, or Sexual Orientation will adopt procedures to ensure parents of students in these courses are informed of their

rights a minimum of one week prior to instruction. (See [AP 60-01 Curriculum – Provincial and Alternative Programs.](#))

1.2.1 Schools will use [Form 6-20 – Notice Form under Section 58.1 of the Education Act](#), to provide notice to parents. (See AP 60-01 Curriculum – Provincial and Alternate Programs.)

2. Neerlandia Public Christian School (NPCS) has been authorized by the Pembina Hills School Division (PHSD) Board to offer an alternative program that emphasizes Christianity in a faith-based program (see AP 60-01 Curriculum – Provincial and Alternate Programs).
 - 2.1 NPCS will provide a clear statement on registration forms indicating to parents that they are enrolling their child in a school where religious instruction, exercises or instructional materials are used and that religion permeates the school program.
3. Pembina Hills School Division (PHSD) Board has established an alternative program that emphasizes Christianity in a faith-based program delivered from the Alberta Distance Learning Center (ADLC). (See AP 60-01 Curriculum – Provincial and Alternate Programs.)
4. Distribution of free Materials (Text, and or Artifacts) that deal primarily or explicitly with religion or human sexuality:
 - 4.1 When an organization or group with an affiliation known to advocate for, or to promote a particular perspective of religion or sexuality, wishes to distribute free materials to students, the representatives of the group must make the request directly to the principal of the school.
 - 4.2 The principal has the authority to approve of the distribution to students with these conditions:
 - 4.2.1 The parents/guardians of the intended recipient students must receive notice informing them of the source and content of the materials.
 - 4.2.2 Parents/guardians who DO NOT permit the school to distribute the free materials to their children must indicate this intention on the form, and return it to the school.
 - 4.2.3 Parents/guardians who DO permit the school to distribute the free materials to their children must indicate this intention on the form, and return it to the school.
 - 4.2.4 Alternatively, parents/guardians can choose to pick up the materials themselves from the school, within a reasonable time of the scheduled distribution.
 - 4.2.5 School staff (administrator, teacher or support staff) will distribute the materials.
 - 4.2.6 The representative is not to explain or present or promote the materials.
 - 4.2.7 Students whose parents/guardians have declined the materials are not treated differently than any student whose parents consent to the distribution of the materials.
 - 4.2.8 No class time is used to distribute the materials.
 - 4.3 The principal has the authority to deny the distribution of this type of materials on the basis of their assessment of various factors. Some reasons to deny distribution include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 4.3.1 The materials are contrary to the ethical standards of the school and community.
 - 4.3.2 The group requests a distribution frequency of more than once per school year.

Reference

[Education Act](#)

[Policy 13 Appeals to the Board Regarding Student Matters](#)

[Policy 19 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment](#)

[AP 20-03 School Dispute Resolution \(External Communication Protocol\)](#)

[AP 60-01 Curriculum: Provincial and Alternative Programs](#)

[Form 6-20 Notice Form under Section 50.1 of the *Alberta School Act*](#)

[Form 6-20B Distribution of materials that deal primarily or explicitly with religion or human sexuality](#)