

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

I. GENERALLY

The School Board approves the inclusion of Family Life Education (FLE) in the curriculum. FLE instruction is based on the FLE Standards of Learning (SOL) and curriculum guidelines developed by the Virginia Board of Education, which provide for age-appropriate instructional content.

II. CURRICULA

A. High School

The high school FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, including sexual harassment using electronic means, sexual violence, human trafficking, and the law and meaning of consent. Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence *may* include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity.

B. Secondary Schools

The SOL objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships are taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school.

C. All Schools

The FLE curriculum offered in any school incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that the student respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. The FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation; associated criminal penalties; and the rights of the victim, including any civil action pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-42.5.

The FLE curriculum *may* incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.

D. Students with IEPs

ACPS provides modified FLE instruction for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) when needed.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Superintendent or designee approves all FLE instructional materials, as well as all materials relating to FLE available for circulation to students through the school libraries or resource and media centers. In addition, K-10 grade-level curriculum guides are posted on the ACPS website.

IV. STAFF TRAINING

Teachers may not teach any portion of the FLE curriculum unless they has completed the “Sexuality Education for Teachers” course (or an equivalent course offering, including a blended-learning format) OR have provided a college transcript that documents successful completion of a similar course.

Additionally, all employees responsible for adapting the FLE curriculum for students with disabilities will participate in specially designed professional development to ensure that appropriate modifications and differentiation occurs and is integrated into the written curriculum.

V. PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

A. “Opt-out” Procedures

All K-10 students receive FLE instruction unless parents/guardians have chosen to exempt them from all or part of the FLE program. Exemption, or “opt-out” procedures, are included in the Welcome Packet and Family Handbook at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment, and are found on the ACPS website.

B. Training

The Division provides parent/guardian orientation to support understanding of the purpose and design of the FLE program and its curriculum. Such training and orientation sessions may occur in a variety of venues, including the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center, the Parent Resource Center (PRC), PTA/PTSA meetings, in and other contexts.

C. Right of Review

A parent or guardian has the right to review the family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in the program. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials is made available through any available parent/guardian portal and kept in each school’s library media center or office and made available for review to any parent/guardian during school office hours before and during the school year.

The audio-visual materials are made available to parents/guardians for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

ACPS develops a summary of the family life curricula designed to assist parents/guardians in understanding the program and to encourage parental involvement in the instruction of students in family life education. The summary is distributed to the parents/guardians of students participating in the FLE program and is posted on the ACPS website. Such information reflects the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. The following statement will be included in the summary: *“Parents and guardians have the right to review the Family Life Education Program offered by their school division, including written and audio-visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of Family Life Education instruction.”*

VI. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) serves as the community involvement team. SHAB members provide input to staff regarding new instructional and resource materials and changes to FLE curriculum.

VII. ACPS REVIEW

ACPS’ Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership reviews the FLE curriculum annually. The review allows for community input by making the FLE curriculum available for public comment.

The School Board reviews its FLE curriculum at least once every seven years, evaluates whether it reflects contemporary community standards, and revises it if necessary.

Adopted: January 9, 1997
Amended: July 1, 2005
Amended: June 11, 2015
Amended: October 27, 2016
Amended: April 25, 2019
Amended: December 16, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207.1, 22.1- 207.1:1, 22.1-207.2.

Family Life Education: Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools, Virginia Department of Education (Revised September 2016).

Cross Refs.: BCF Advisory Committees to the School Board
IIA Instructional Materials
INB Teaching About Controversial Issues

KLB

Public Complaints About Learning Resources