

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Code</i> IHAMA
	<i>PARENTAL/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION</i>	

HOLLISTON

The comprehensive health education curriculum of the Holliston Public Schools (HPS), as approved by the School Committee, includes units that involve issues of human sexuality.

In accordance with Chapter 71, Section 32A, of the Massachusetts General Laws, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to provide for written parent/guardian notification of any curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education of issues of human sexuality, prior to the teaching of these units.

To the extent practicable, the Superintendent will ensure that parents/guardians have the opportunity to review the instructional materials used in the teaching of said curriculum. The Sex Education program shall align with MA DESE State Curriculum Frameworks. Parents/guardians shall have the right to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum by notifying the school principal in writing. No student will be penalized by reason of such exemption, and students so exempted will be assigned an alternative activity during the instruction.

This policy pertains to the HPS' comprehensive K-12 health education curriculum as well as other courses (e.g. certain science courses) whose curriculum primarily involves human sexuality issues or human sexual education.

As provided by law, the parent/guardian notification requirement does not apply to: a) curriculum areas dealing with human sexuality issues that are primarily safety-related, e.g., "Sexual Abuse" or teen dating violence; b) student-initiated questions.

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, preferably within two weeks of the request. 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 the dispute.

First Reading:	June 12, 1997
Second Reading:	Waived
Third Reading:	Waived
Policy Adopted:	June 12, 1997
Policy Amended:	November 16, 2000; January 21, 2010; August 25, 2022
Policy Reviewed:	April 22, 2019; July 21, 2022
Legal References:	
Policy Cross Reference:	
Procedure Reference:	https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/lgbtq/genderidentity.html https://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html

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