

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PARENT INFORMATION AND OPT-OUT PROCEDURES

In accordance with the requirements of the State of Virginia, the Arlington Public Schools (APS) has developed a comprehensive Family Life Education (FLE) Program designed to promote parent involvement, foster positive self-concepts and provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students' developmental stages and abilities. Some of the topics covered in Family Life Education are family living and community relationships, human sexuality and reproduction, self-esteem, resistance to peer pressure and substance abuse.

Family Life Education Standards of Learning resources (SOLs, curriculum, textbooks, etc.) are available for public review in your child's school and in the Health and Physical Education office located at Syphax Education Center.

"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." (Virginia Department of Education)

Your child's school will hold a meeting each year fall to review the Family Life Education Program. At that time, you will learn when the lessons will be taught and how you as a parent can reinforce the instructions. A letter will be included in the APS 1st Day packet explaining the FLE program and reminding you of the opportunity to review curriculum materials.

Although the Family Life Education Program is designed to assist and support parents as they educate their children, some parents may choose to have their children opt-out from instruction in certain objectives. The opt-out procedure permits parents to exercise this choice. An opt-out form can be viewed and downloaded from the APS website and/or obtained from your child's school upon request. Please consider carefully the educational opportunities your child may be missing before choosing to opt-out your child.

If you exercise your option to have your child opt-out from any part of the Family Life Education Program, your child will spend that time outside the classroom in a designated area, such as the school media center. Your child will not be penalized if you exercise the opt-out opportunity; however, your child will be expected to work independently during that time with minimum adult supervision. You can help the school by reminding your child of that responsibility.

Please read the objectives carefully and attend the Family Life Education Program parent meeting in your school to review and learn about the curriculum and its instructional delivery. The school system believes the program is important for your child. We look forward to working with parents to help provide this program to our children.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, principal or Deborah DeFranco (703) 228-6167.