



FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Virginia Department of Education has informed school divisions that the decision to offer/not offer Family Life Education (FLE) is a local decision – and offering it virtually/remotely is also a local decision. With the 2020-21 school year beginning with full-time distance learning, Arlington Public School will be reviewing the newly revised FLE Standards of Learning and identifying the standards that are suitable for virtual learning. Some of these topics may include mental health, relationships, human reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases. APS will communicate these SOLs in the fall and will alert parents/guardians to check the website through an APS School Talk.

The Arlington School Board recognizes the sensitive nature of some content in the Family Life Education program. The program is not intended to conflict with family values and behavioral norms. 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. Parents wanting to opt their child out of any Family Life Education instruction should obtain the opt-out form:

- From the APS website at <https://www.apsva.us/healthphysicalanddrivereducation/family-life-education/>;
- At their school;
- By contacting the Health and Physical Education Office at 703-228-6165.

In the event that a parent opts their child out of a specific objective, an alternative assignment will be given. A (virtual) parent informational meeting will be held at each school. At this meeting, parents will have an opportunity to learn about the materials and how they can support instruction at home.

Arlington Public Schools provides an age-appropriate, comprehensive (K-10) Family Life Education program that will instruct your child to meet these goals:

- Develop positive self-concepts and respect for others;
- Form and maintain strong relationships with family and community;
- Develop self-esteem, self-confidence, and responsibility;
- Understand the importance of abstaining from sexual activity;
- Manage stress and resist peer pressure;
- Develop awareness and knowledge of mental health issues;
- Prevent sexual assault and dating violence and recognize abusive relationships; and
- Develop into responsible, productive and well-adjusted adults.

Family Life Education program information including opt out forms can be accessed online at: <https://www.apsva.us/healthphysicalanddrivereducation/family-life-education/>.

If you want copies of the materials sent to you, please contact your child's school or the Health and Physical Education Office at 703-228-6165. If you have any questions, you can contact your child's teacher or principal, or please call me at 703-228-6165 or email me at deborah.defranco@apsva.us.

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