

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WENHAM, MA

C3001

Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education Policy

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee has adopted this policy on the rights of parents and guardians of our students in relation to curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues.

**I. Policy**

Prior to the introduction of the curriculum to the students, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses and curriculum we offer their children that involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The school principal, or his/her designee, will be responsible for sending notices to parents. Notification may be in the form of school newsletters, special mailings, fliers sent home with the student, or school handbooks/course catalogs. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact within twenty (20) or more school days before implementation. Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy, and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

- (1) exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. The principal or his/her designee may at his/her discretion, provide an alternative assignment to a student who has been exempted from any portion of the curriculum at the request of the parent/guardian pursuant to this policy.
- (2) inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal or the teacher to review the materials at the school.

. Parents will be required to notify the school at least ten (10) school days before implementation of a program if they wish to avail themselves of option 1 or 2 above.

If a parent/guardian believes that he/she has not received proper notice of this policy, has not

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Approved: December 1, 2011

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Chairperson, HWRSD School Committee: Alexa McCloughan

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been provided reasonable access to the instructional materials, and/or his/her child has not been appropriately exempted from any portion of the curriculum pursuant to this policy, he/she may file a written request to the Superintendent to review the alleged violations of this policy. Such request should be filed whenever possible, within two weeks of when the parent knew or should have known about the alleged violation of the policy. The parent/guardian should attach to this request, if available, written documentation in support of his/her request. The Superintendent or his/her designee will review the material submitted by the parent/guardian and will provide the parent/guardian with a timely written decision, preferably within two weeks of the written request. A parent/guardian who disagrees with the Superintendent's decision regarding the alleged violation(s) of the policy, may send a written request with supporting documentation to the School Committee within two weeks of receipt of the Superintendent's written response. The School Committee will review the material submitted by the parent/guardian and will provide the parent/guardian with a written response preferably within four weeks of the filing of the written request. A parent/guardian who, after receiving the School Committee's written response, still believes that the policy has been violated may file a written request to the Commissioner of Education for review of the alleged violation(s) of the policy within four weeks of receipt of the School Committee's written response. A copy of said written request shall be provided to the School Committee.

The Superintendent of Schools will distribute a copy of this policy to each principal by September 1 of each year.

**II. Policy Review and Revision**

Review and revision of these policies and procedures shall occur as needed, but at least every two years.

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