

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION SUMMARY

Program Overview:

The Family Life Education Program for the York County School Division is designed to teach students in grades K-10 the objectives for Family Life Education as established by the Virginia State Department of Education.

Guidelines:

The Family Life Education program shall be comprehensive and sequential and include the following content areas:

1. Family living and community relationships;
2. The value of postponing sexual activity until marriage (abstinence education);
3. Human sexuality;
4. Human reproduction and contraception;
5. The etiology, prevention, and effects of sexually transmitted infections;;
6. Stress management and resistance to peer pressure;;
7. Development of positive self-concepts and respect for others;
8. Parenting skills;
9. Substance use and abuse;
10. Child abuse;
11. Prevention of sexual assault and, in the event of sexual assault, the importance of receiving immediate medical attention and advice, knowledge of the requirements of the law, and use of resources such as counseling and legal services;
12. Dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships including using electronic devices to convey inappropriate images and behaviors;
13. Education about and awareness of mental health issues; and
14. The benefits of marriage.

Parent Information:

Parents and guardians have the right to review the Family Life Education program offered by the 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.

In addition, each school will conduct an orientation program to Family Life Education for parents and other interested community members at an evening event during the month of September. The orientation program will include:

- An overview of the lessons which will be taught.
- The identification of those lessons which are sex-separated.
- An explanation of who will teach Family Life Education.
- A handout listing printed and audiovisual material (which will be available for review) as well as an explanation of the schedule and process for reviewing this information.
- An explanation of the "opt-out" provision and the procedure by which parents may communicate a desire to have their child removed from a lesson/lessons of the Family Life Education program.

For additional information/clarification please contact Sandy Hespe by email shespe@ycsd.york.va.us or phone: 757-898-0469