



Prince William County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Providing A World-Class Education

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In response to the requirements of Section 22.1-207.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, instruction in Prince William County Public Schools includes a comprehensive, sequential, abstinence-based, age-appropriate Family Life Education curriculum. A fifty-two member Community Involvement Team composed of parents, teachers, clergy, members of the medical profession, school administrators, and a School Board member endorsed the original curriculum in 1988. In May 2005 the curriculum objectives were realigned to reflect the revisions that were made to the Virginia State *Standards of Learning* for Family Life Education as well as changes in the core curriculums in which Family Life Education objectives are integrated. The Family Life Education curriculum, approved by the Prince William School Board, is designed to:

- be taught as a part of the existing curriculum in social studies, science, health, and exploring family and consumer science;
- emphasize the importance of family;
- stress the need for individuals to make decisions appropriate to values established within their families;
- assist students of all ages in accepting the responsibilities for and consequences of their behavior;
- encourage child-parent discussions in order to foster mutual support between the home and the school;
- stress the value of life and the multiplicity of opportunities available to young people; and
- recognize the diversity of people and families within our society.

Although the Family Life Education curriculum is highly compatible with existing curricula and serves to enrich the educational experiences of students in Prince William County Public Schools, some objectives in the Family Life Education curriculum may be considered sensitive by some parents/guardians. Therefore, parents are afforded the opportunity to opt their children out of instruction involving these objectives. *Unless you indicate otherwise, your child will be included in instruction that involves Family Life Education.*

Please review the attached list of Family Life Education objectives that relate to your child's grade/subject level. If you have questions pertaining to specific objectives before making opt-out decisions, please contact your child's school. If you determine that your child should not be included in formal instruction in specified objectives, complete the opt-out form and return it to your child's school. Arrangements will then be made for your child to participate in an appropriate instructional activity during instruction involving the Family Life Education objectives you have identified. This instructional activity will not include components of the Family Life Education

Jason Calhoun
Supervisor of Science and Family Life Education

program. Parents or guardians transferring children to schools in Prince William County are responsible for informing the new school of their opt-out decisions.

For students receiving Family Life Education instruction in special education classrooms, appropriate grade/subject level objectives will be determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) committee and recorded on the IEP form. If the parent/guardian does not wish their child to receive instruction in certain Family Life Education objectives selected by the IEP committee, the parent/guardian should sign the opt-out form listing the objectives to be excluded.

Any parent/guardian may opt their child out of direct Family Life Education instruction; however, teachers cannot be held responsible for spontaneous questions from students that may pertain to subjects previously discussed. Neither can a teacher be held accountable for discussions of sensitive topics that occur among students outside class.

It is recognized that some families would prefer to have instruction related to Family Life Education provided in the home, in the church, or by the family physician. Every effort will be made to ensure that students understand and respect family choices in this matter so as to avoid undue peer pressure for or against the program.

Sincerely,

Jason Calhoun,
Supervisor of Science and Family Life Education

JC/cg

(cut here and return this portion if you wish to exercise opt out)

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION OPT-OUT

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE / COURSE: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

I wish to have my child removed from Family Life Education instruction on the following objectives:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Distribution: (1) Parent/Guardian (2) Teacher (3) School Administration (4) Office of Science and FLE