

Schools have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of students by providing medically accurate and timely information about sexually transmitted diseases. The program must be consistent with Catholic teaching regarding the dignity of all human life and consistent with Gospel values.

Procedures

1. Formal classroom instruction of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) will be presented at the appropriate grade levels and integrated into the provincial Health Curriculum, Religious Education and Family Life Programs.
2. The information must be technically correct and presented in a Catholic ethical context. It must be made clear to the students that the only way to avoid STDs is to do what one is morally obligated to do and that is to confine genital sexual activity to monogamous marriage.
3. School personnel will explain the rationale of the program to parents and to any other interested stakeholders prior to the introduction of the unit.
4. The Principal will encourage parents to become familiar with the information being presented to their children at various grade levels.
5. The Principal shall ensure that staff in-service sessions are provided as deemed necessary.
6. The Principal shall encourage the use of community resource personnel as long as such participation is done in a manner respectful of the Catholic moral and ethical position.
7. The Principal, in conjunction with the Superintendent, shall approve the resources used in the teaching of STDs and AIDS.
8. Parents may choose to have their children excused from instructional classes dealing with STDs and AIDS. All parental requests must be made in writing and submitted to the teacher.

Reviewed/Revised: March 2014