

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

I. GENERALLY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) provides Family Life Education (FLE) based on the FLE Standards of Learning (SOL) and curriculum guidelines developed by the Virginia Board of Education. Parents/guardians may exempt their child from FLE.

II. CURRICULA

- High School

The high school FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, including sexual harassment using electronic means, sexual violence, human trafficking of children, and the law and meaning of consent. Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence *may* include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity.

- Secondary Schools

The SOL objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships are taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school.

- All Schools

The FLE curriculum offered in any school incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that the student respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. The FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of sexual abuse including female genital mutilation; associated criminal penalties; and the rights of the victim, including any civil action pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-42.5.

The FLE curriculum *may* incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation child sexual abuse, and in any such curriculum offered in high school, human trafficking of children.

- Students with IEPs

47 ACPS provides modified FLE instruction for students with Individualized
48 Education Programs (IEPs) when needed.

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50 The School Board reviews its FLE curriculum at least once every seven years, evaluates
51 whether it reflects contemporary community standards, and revises it if necessary.
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54 A. Right of Review

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56 A parent or guardian has the right to review the family life curricula, including all
57 supplemental materials used in the program. A complete copy of all printed
58 materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual
59 materials is made available through any available parent/guardian portal and kept
60 in each school’s library media center or office and made available for review to any
61 parent/guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The
62 audio-visual materials are made available to parents/guardians for in-person
63 review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.
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65 ACPS develops a summary of the family life curricula designed to assist
66 parents/guardians in understanding the program and to encourage parental
67 involvement in the instruction of students in family life education. The summary is
68 distributed to the parents/guardians of students participating in the FLE program
69 and is posted on the ACPS website. Such information reflects the curricula of the
70 program as taught in the classroom. The following statement will be included in the
71 summary: *“Parents and guardians have the right to review the Family Life
72 Education Program offered by their school division, including written and audio-
73 visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have
74 the right to excuse their child from all or part of Family Life Education
75 instruction.”*
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77 **III. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

78 The School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) serves as the community involvement team.
79 SHAB members provide input to staff regarding new instructional and resource materials
80 and changes to FLE curriculum.
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85 Adopted: January 9, 1997
86 Amended: July 1, 2005
87 Amended: June 11, 2015
88 Amended: October 27, 2016
89 Amended: April 25, 2019
90 Amended: December 16, 2021
91

92 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207.1, 22.1- 207.1:1, 22.1-207.2.

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Family Life Education: Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools, Virginia Department of Education (Revised September 2016).

Cross Refs.:	BCF	Advisory Committees to the School Board
	IIA	Instructional Materials
	INB	Teaching About Controversial Issues
	KLB	Public Complaints About Learning Resources

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

I. GENERALLY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) provides ~~The School Board approves the inclusion of Family Life Education (FLE) in the curriculum. FLE instruction is~~ based on the FLE Standards of Learning (SOL) and curriculum guidelines developed by the Virginia Board of Education, ~~which provide for age-appropriate instructional content. Parents/guardians may exempt their child from FLE.~~

Commented [MS1]: Added to provide clarity.

II. CURRICULA

A. High School

The high school FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, including sexual harassment using electronic means, sexual violence, human trafficking of children, and the law and meaning of consent. Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence may include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity.

Commented [2]: Per the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.1:1

B. Secondary Schools

The SOL objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships are taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school.

C. All Schools

The FLE curriculum offered in any school incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that the student respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. The FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of sexual abuse including female genital mutilation; associated criminal penalties; and the rights of the victim, including any civil action pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-42.5.

The FLE curriculum may incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, ~~and~~ child sexual abuse, ~~and in any such curriculum offered in high school, human trafficking of children.~~

D. ● Students with IEPs

ACPS provides modified FLE instruction for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) when needed.

~~The School Board reviews its FLE curriculum at least once every seven years, evaluates whether it reflects contemporary community standards, and revises it if necessary.~~

Commented [3]: Relocated to align with the VSBA model policy

III. ~~INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS~~

~~The Superintendent or designee approves all FLE instructional materials, as well as all materials relating to FLE available for circulation to students through the school libraries or resource and media centers. In addition, K-10 grade-level curriculum guides are posted on the ACPS website.~~

IV. ~~STAFF TRAINING~~

~~Teachers may not teach any portion of the FLE curriculum unless they have completed the "Sexuality Education for Teachers/ACPS Family Life Education Certification Course" course (or an equivalent course offering, including a blended learning format) OR have provided a college transcript that documents successful completion of a similar course.~~

~~Additionally, all employees responsible for adapting the FLE curriculum for students with disabilities will participate in specially designed professional development to ensure that appropriate modifications and differentiation occurs and is integrated into the written curriculum.~~

V. ~~PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT~~

A. ~~"Opt-out" Procedures~~

~~All K-10 students receive FLE instruction unless parents/guardians have chosen to exempt them from all or part of the FLE program. Exemption, or "opt out" procedures, are included in the Welcome Packet and Family Handbook at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment, and are found on the ACPS website.~~

B. ~~Training~~

~~The Division provides parent/guardian orientation to support understanding of the purpose and design of the FLE program and its curriculum. Such training and orientation sessions may occur in a variety of venues, including the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center, the Parent Resource Center (PRC), PTA/PTSA meetings, in and other contexts.~~

Commented [4]: Content moved to the new regulation

~~C.A.~~ Right of Review

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95 supplemental materials used in the program. A complete copy of all printed
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110 Education Program offered by their school division, including written and audio-
111 visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have
112 the right to excuse their child from all or part of Family Life Education
113 instruction.”
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Commented [5]: Distribution is required under the code. <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.2>

115 ~~VI.~~ **III. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

116 The School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) serves as the community involvement team.
117 SHAB members provide input to staff regarding new instructional and resource materials
118 and changes to FLE curriculum.
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121 ~~VII.~~ **ACPS REVIEW**

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123 ~~ACPS’ Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership reviews the FLE curriculum~~
124 ~~annually. The review allows for community input by making the FLE curriculum available~~
125 ~~for public comment.~~

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127 ~~The School Board reviews its FLE curriculum at least once every seven years, evaluates~~
128 ~~whether it reflects contemporary community standards, and revises it if necessary.~~

Commented [MS6]: Moved to the regulation

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131 Adopted: January 9, 1997
132 Amended: July 1, 2005
133 Amended: June 11, 2015
134 Amended: October 27, 2016
135 Amended: April 25, 2019
136 Amended: December 16, 2021
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141 *Family Life Education: Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia*
142 *Public Schools*, Virginia Department of Education (Revised September 2016).
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