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The following statement of policy applies to the Salem Public Schools, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, which designates that parents and guardians will be notified of any curriculum which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, allows parents/guardians to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum through written notification to the school principal, and makes instructional materials for said curricula reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, and others for inspection and review.

At Salem High School said courses will:

Be listed and highlighted in the Program of Studies from which the students choose their courses;

Designate the specific topics included which primarily involve human sexuality education;

In specific courses, which contain a definite strand pertaining to human sexuality, such as Health, the teacher will notify all parents/guardians of the probable timeline for teaching to provide parents/guardians with a reasonable period to review course materials and curriculum.

At the middle and elementary schools, the principals, teachers, and/or school nurses will notify parents/guardians in writing prior to teaching said curriculum. The notification will include the specific topics to be covered. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Parents/guardians may exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum, which primarily involves human sexuality issues without penalty to the student by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption.

While it is the intent of the Salem School Department to provide parents/guardians with reasonable notice prior to teaching curriculum dealing with human sexuality, there may be occasions when an impromptu discussion may occur where such notice cannot be provided.

Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment. To the extent practicable, program instructional

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materials for these curricula will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with the notice given regarding human sexuality, their access to instructional materials or the exemption of a student under this policy should report this in writing to the building principal to begin the Complaint Procedure as described in Policy #1507.

See Administrative Guidelines Approved: 1/9/06

Approved by Policy Subcommittee: October 2015