

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

Virginia standards for Family Life Education (“FLE”) provide a comprehensive, sequential K-12 curriculum. They include age-appropriate instruction in family living and community relationships, abstinence education, the value of postponing sexual activity, the benefits of adoption as a positive choice in the event of an unwanted pregnancy, human sexuality and human reproduction. Instruction is designed to promote parental involvement, foster positive self-concepts, and provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students’ developmental stages and abilities.

Generally

The Albemarle County School Board (“School Board”) has approved the Albemarle County Public Schools’ (“School Division”) Family Life Education (“FLE”) curriculum. The curriculum is organized and maintained under the FLE guidelines developed by the Virginia Department of Education. 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. 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, and sexual violence, human trafficking, 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. 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 and physical and emotional effects of 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.

The School Board must first approve all materials used in the FLE curriculum. The School Board reviews its FLE curricula at least once every seven (7) years, evaluates whether the curricula reflect contemporary community standards, and revises the curricula if necessary.

Right of Parental Review

A parent or guardian has the right to review the FLE curricula, including all supplemental materials used in the program. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials is made available electronically and

kept in the school library and made available for review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials are made available to parents for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available. Contact your school principal to review materials that are unavailable on the School Division website due to copyright laws.

The School Board develops and distributes to the parents or guardians of students participating in the FLE program and posts for public viewing on the School Division’s website a summary designed to assist them in understanding the program implemented in its School Division and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of the students. Such information reflects the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. The following statement is included in the summary: “Parents and guardians have the right to review the family life education program offered by their 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.”

Adopted: July 1, 1993
 Amended: May 24, 1999; December 8, 2011; February 25, 2016; September 14, 2017; September 18, 2018; August 25, 2022
 Reviewed: September 23, 2004, August 26, 2021
 Equity Review: August 26, 2021; August 25, 2022

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

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