

Egale



Teacher FAQ:

Navigating Conversations about
the Sex Ed Curriculum

SEX ED





What should I do if a student asks a question about the human development and sexual health curriculum outside of health classes?

You are generally allowed to talk about these topics outside of health classes across Canada. Use these opportunities as teachable moments to demonstrate commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Respond in a way that is appropriate for the developmental stage of the student, referring to the curriculum whenever possible.

- ▶ **For example**, if a student asks about a character's family structure during a language arts lesson by asking:

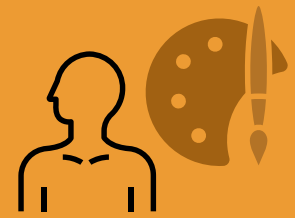
“Why does the character have two moms?”

- ▶ **You might say:**

“Some families have two moms, or two dads, just like others have a mom and a dad, and others have one parent. All families are different, and that's okay. What's important is that families love and care for each other.”



Refer to your local school board and/or Ministry of Education policies for confirmation on any limitations to how these topics can be addressed within the classroom.



Can I include references to human development and sexual health in other subjects, like art or social studies? Am I allowed to talk about these topics?

Yes, you can include references to human development and sexual health in other subjects when it's relevant.

- ▶ **For example, in art**, you could explore how artists have expressed themes of identity and love through their work.
- ▶ Or **in social studies**, you might discuss how a historically important person's sexual orientation impacted the work being discussed or their contribution to society more broadly.

While you are not intended to teach specific curriculum content about gender identity outside of health class, you're generally allowed to mention it in context and answer questions about it.

Remember to check with regional policies to ensure your teaching aligns with local guidelines. Representation of diverse identities is crucial to learning and fosters an environment that more accurately reflects the real world.

For more strategies and resources, check out our [Relearn and React](#) series.



How can I support students who may or may not have support at home regarding their gender identity or sexual orientation? What resources should I have on hand?

You can support all students by using inclusive language, providing diverse representation through teaching materials, supporting student expression, and showcasing your own allyship (through clothing, for example).

Encourage co-creating a support system, such as other teachers, school counselors, and GSAs (Gender Sexuality Alliances).

Be a trusted adult they can turn to for support and guidance.

- ▶ **Have a list of local and online resources**, such as [2SLGBTQI organizations](#), books, educational websites, etc. ready to share, visible and accessible to all students.



What can I do if a student expresses curiosity about gender identity or sexual orientation topics?

Provide reassurance.

► You might say:

“It’s okay to be questioning and feel like you want to explore this topic more. Let’s talk about what you are thinking and feeling. There are no wrong questions, just be mindful to ask your questions in a respectful way so that they don’t unintentionally hurt others.”

This approach helps validate their feelings, encourages open dialogue, and promotes respect.



How should I respond if a student asks why another student has been opted-out of health class?

It is important to maintain privacy and neutrality.

► A potential answer could be:

“There are many reasons why a student might not participate in certain lessons. It’s important that we respect everyone and focus on our own learning. Some families feel more comfortable teaching these topics themselves. What we learn in health class is important, and if you have more questions about the lesson, I’m happy to help.”

Make sure to keep the focus on the learning experience, while emphasizing the validity of the lesson.

**For more information & resources,
please visit our website egale.ca**

