

Addressing Parent /Caregiver Concerns about Family Life Curriculum in Secondary Health Education

District Procedure:

1. Parent/Caregiver should be provided the opportunity to review family life materials during an in-person meeting with the classroom teacher
 - a. Meeting can take place via the phone or in person (if current school/district policies allow)
2. Curricular materials should not be sent home for independent review
 - a. Exception - YouTube videos from the curriculum can be shared with parents after the parent/teacher meeting (for parents to review on their own time)
 - i. During the meeting, teachers should share how the videos are used to provide context prior to the parent viewing the video

Key Points to Consider When Addressing Parents/Caregiver About Family Life Unit:

Building Parent /Caregiver Support for the Teacher/Parent Partnership:

1. Focus on building the relationship with the parent/caregiver as a priority during the meeting
2. Emphasize your appreciation for the parent/caregiver being invested in their child's education and taking the time to meet with you
3. Validate the parent/caregiver's concerns
4. Highlight positive aspects about their child throughout the meeting
5. Share the goal of working with the parent/caregiver to support their child in your classroom

Consideration:

1. Consider showing the unit pacing guide at the start of the meeting
2. Allow the parent/caregiver to share any concerns they have about the topics within the pacing guide and use that to drive the conversation during the meeting
3. The parent/caregiver is welcome to see all materials within the curriculum, but it may not be necessary to review every lesson
 - a. Allow the parent/caregiver to decide what is reviewed within the curriculum

Effective talking points:

1. The parent/caregiver is the primary sexual health educator of their child, our role is to supplement the education provided at home through sharing facts about sexual health topics for effective communication, healthy decision making, and well-being
2. Family life education protects the health and well-being of young people now and into the future
3. Our goal is to partner with parents/caregivers to ensure students learn about their family's values at home and medically accurate knowledge about sexual health topics from a trained health educator at school

Effective talking points continued :

4. The lessons we use in HCPS comply with district, state, and national requirements for health education. I'd be happy to share them with you for review.
 - a. The lessons were developed by health education curriculum writers, then vetted through our family life committee and the HCPS general curriculum committee for approval
 - b. All content is selected based on prioritizing the health and wellbeing of all young people in our classrooms. The content was selected to help empower young people to make healthy decisions and to reflect the lives of all students and families we serve.

