



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Dr. Charlene Williams**  
Director of the Department of Education

## Sexuality Education Parent/Guardian Notification and Opt-out

### Sexuality Education Parent/Guardian Notification

[ORS 336.035](#) and [ORS 336.465](#) requires schools to:

1. inform parents/guardians in advance of any instruction on sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and human sexuality topics.
2. give parents/guardians an opportunity to review materials, and
3. provide parents/guardians with an opportunity to opt their child out of the instruction.

[ORS 336.059](#) requires schools to:

1. inform parents/guardians about child sexual abuse topics and how to discuss child sexual abuse prevention with children.

### Sexuality Education Parent/Guardian Opt-Out and Other Exemptions

Opt-out and exemption rules generally apply to individual students and are not a process schools should use to eliminate an entire program of instruction, curriculum, student club, or activity. It is important to note that different treatment on the basis of gender identity or any other protected class in schools may be discriminatory under Oregon's civil rights laws. This could include making special rules for school curricula or other programs.

[ORS 336.035](#), [ORS 336.465](#), [OAR 581-022-2050](#), and [OAR 581-021-0009](#) provide parents/guardians with the ability to opt out or exempt their child out of specific educational content or programs in two ways:

1. Parents/guardians have the right to opt their child out of specific human sexuality education content by simply making a request to the district in writing, as set out in ORS 336.035, ORS 336.465, and OAR 581-022-2050. Requirements regarding alternate instruction are determined by local school policies and procedures. Parent/guardian opt out is allowable for the following human sexuality education content:

- a) **any portion of the board-approved comprehensive sexuality education plan/program of instruction.** Per OAR 581-022-2050, this plan/program must include, at a minimum: content on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, human sexuality, and child sexual abuse prevention. Local school districts can determine what else to include in the plan.
  - b) **any portion of a course concerning sexually transmitted infections** including recognition of causes, sources, and symptoms, and the availability of diagnostic and treatment centers.
2. For all other state required curriculum, program, or learning activity, a parent/guardian may request an exemption by following the process set out in OAR 581-021-0009:
- a) A parent/guardian may request that their student be excused from a state required program or learning activity, where necessary, to accommodate a student's disability or religious beliefs.
  - b) A parent/guardian must submit a written request listing the reasons for the request and set forth a proposed alternative for an individualized learning activity that substitutes for the period of time exempt from the program and meets the goals of the learning activity or course being exempted.
  - c) School district personnel must evaluate and approve the request. The request is then reviewed by the local school board for approval. If approved by the local school board, the district may approve the request and grant credit for the alternative learning activity.

More information on Oregon and Federal [Civil Rights](#).

More information on Oregon [Sexuality Education](#).