

**Parents have a right to review all sex education materials and opt their children out of “sex Education.”**

**Mass. Gen. Law Chap. 71, Sec. 32A**

**R**evise the content of programs, text books, and handouts regarding sexuality education each year.

**E**valuate the curriculum in light of your child’s maturity and your family’s religious values.

**V**iew audiovisuals that will be used in the classroom, workshops and special assemblies.

**I**nterview your child’s health teacher; determine how issues will be addressed; inquire about guest speakers and the organizations they represent.

**E**xercise your right to be involved in planning and evaluating programs.

**W**rite to your principal to exempt your child from objectionable material when necessary. This is your right under current law.

**“The right of parents to choose an education in conformity with their religious faith must be absolutely guaranteed.”**

**- John Paul II**



**For more information contact:  
Massachusetts Catholic Conference  
[www.macathconf.org](http://www.macathconf.org)  
(617) 367-6060**

## **What Parents Should Know About the Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks**



As public schools assume more responsibility for sexuality education, they must exercise care that they neither take over the rightful role of parents, nor contradict parents’ religious values.

The **Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks** are currently the *recommendations* of the state as to what should be taught in public schools with respect to nutrition, exercise, drugs, alcohol, etc. Local districts have some discretion as to how they are implemented. No one is opposed to health education per se (nutrition, exercise, safety), **but** concealed within the Frameworks is a form of sex education that undermines the rights of parents.

## **In accordance with the Frameworks students would be taught:**

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### **How to get an abortion without parental knowledge**

(Grades 9 to 12)

(see objective 4.20 and 4.a, parental notification/judicial bypass);

### **How to get contraceptives**

(by the end of Grade 8)

(see objectives 4.7, “whom to consult” and 4.9, students report on state policy);

### **“Behaviors” for pregnancy prevention**

(by the end of Grade 8)

(see objective 4.8);

### **Acceptance of premarital sex**

(by the end of Grade 12)

(see objective 4.b);

### **Acceptance of homosexual behavior**

(by the end of Grade 5)

(see objectives 4.3, 4.4); and by the end of Grade 12, (4.14 and 4.b).

Teaching our children about human sexuality, sharing an understanding of psychological and emotional aspects of sexuality, and setting behavioral expectations, are the parents’ right and responsibility; they are at the very core of the parents’ role as the primary educators of their children. Parents are the first to help children develop their conscience and define their values.

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- ◆ Every human being is made in the image of and likeness of God and is valuable at every stage;
- ◆ Human beings are created for love and called into a self-giving relationship by God; and,
- ◆ Our sexuality is a precious gift, which allows us to share in God’s loving, creative power in the context of marriage.



**Parents bestow great trust by placing their children in the care of public Schools.**

**Current research indicates that parental involvement is the most effective factor in reducing the risk behaviors of adolescents.**

**Recent legislative attempts have been made to make health a core curriculum subject, making the implementation of the Frameworks mandatory in all school districts.**

## **What Can Parents Do? Let your Voice be Heard!**

- ◆ Contact your state legislators and voice your objections to the mandatory implementation of the Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks.\*
- ◆ Support legislation to make all sexuality education an elective.
- ◆ Examine the content of the local school curriculum.

To view the Frameworks online, visit:

**[www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/health/1999/1099.doc](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/health/1999/1099.doc)**

See pages on Reproduction/Sexuality, pp.31,32.

**\*Current bill number available from Massachusetts Catholic Conference**