



Newell Christian School

## Approval of Learning Resources and External Presenters – For Human Sexual Education Policy

**Approval Date:** September 18, 2025

**Applies To:** All Members of the NCS School Community

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### 1. Purpose

To ensure that all learning and teaching resources and external presenters dealing *primarily and explicitly* with **human sexuality** comply with the *Alberta Education Act (2024 amendments)*, including the requirement for **Ministerial approval**, and to uphold the school's values and legal obligations as an independent faith-based authority.

### 2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure applies to:

- All learning and teaching resources used within the classroom or formal instruction dealing primarily and explicit with human sexuality
- All external parties (individuals or organizations) presenting to students on these topics
- All school-operated or affiliated programs or events, excluding religious instruction

### 3. Definitions

- **Learning and Teaching Resource:** Any material used by staff or external presenters for instruction, excluding student-created work or materials accessed independently by students (e.g., library books).
- **External Party:** Any individual or organization not employed by the school authority. This includes guest speakers, presenters, or organizational representatives.
- **Primarily and Explicitly:** Refers to content where human sexuality is the core instructional focus.
- **Ministerial Approval:** Written approval from the Minister of Education for learning resources or external parties under the *Provincial Resource Review Guide* and *External Party Review Guide*.
- **Religious Instruction:** Teaching based on the doctrines and beliefs of the Christian faith as practiced by the school. Ministerial approval is not required for resources used for religious instruction.

## 4. PROCEDURES

### 4.1 Ministerial Approval of Learning Resources

- **Required:** Any learning or teaching resource that deals primarily and explicitly with human sexuality must receive Ministerial approval **before use in the classroom**, unless used exclusively for religious instruction.
- **Not Required:** Resources used in the context of religious instruction (e.g., biblical perspectives on sexuality) do not require Ministerial approval but must still align with the school's faith-based doctrine.
- **Submission:**
  - Staff must submit proposed resources to school administration at least **90 days prior** to intended use.
  - The principal or designate will complete the submission to Alberta Education via [New.LearnAlberta.ca](http://New.LearnAlberta.ca).
- **Use:** Resources may only be used after official confirmation of Ministerial approval is received.

#### 4.2 Ministerial Approval of External Presenters

- All external presenters intending to deliver instruction dealing primarily and explicitly with human sexuality must be approved by the Minister, regardless of religious context.
- Presenters must:
  - Be developmentally appropriate in content and conduct
  - Use approved instructional approaches
- **Submission:**
  - Presenters must be submitted for approval using the *Request for Approval of External Parties Form* at least **90 days prior** to the scheduled presentation.
  - School administration will ensure all documentation is complete and submitted to Alberta Education.
- Approval is valid for **three years**. Reapproval is required after any changes to content or delivery.

#### 5. Exceptions

- This procedure **does not apply** to:
  - Library books or other media accessed independently by students
  - Student-created content
  - Informal conversation where incidental references arise
  - Staff liaisons or student-led groups under Section 35.1 of the Education Act though resources used in such contexts must still be Minister-approved unless for religious instruction

#### 6. Record-Keeping

- The principal will maintain a register of approved resources and external presenters, including:
  - Date of approval
  - Scope of approved use
  - Expiry or renewal dates for external presenters
- A copy of the Ministerial approval letter/email will be retained in school records.

## **7. Roles and Responsibilities**

- **Teachers:**
  - Identify any resource or planned instruction requiring approval
  - Submit proposed materials to administration in a timely manner
- **Administrators:**
  - Ensure all materials and presenters comply with this procedure
  - Coordinate the submission and tracking of Ministerial approvals
- **External Parties:**
  - May not present or provide materials without official approval
  - Must comply with the school's code of conduct and content standards

## **8. Compliance and Review**

- Non-compliant materials or unapproved presenters shall not be used or allowed access to classrooms.
- This procedure shall be reviewed annually, or as required by updates to the Education Act or Ministerial directives.

## **9. Public Access**

- This procedure shall be available to school parents in printed form upon request.
- A list of approved resources and presenters (for parent reference) will be made available upon request.