



## 8.19 Guest Speakers and Outside Agencies for Health Topics

According to the BC School Act: A board must offer to all students in kindergarten to grade 9 an educational program that meets the learning outcomes set out in the applicable educational program guide” including Physical and Health Education. As per the Educational Program Order, educational program guide for students taking Health is the BC curriculum.

The School Act also states that the classroom teacher is responsible for “designing, supervising and assessing the educational program” for all students assigned to them.

The School Act and the Educational Program order therefore require that all teachers in grades K-10 teach Health as per the BC curriculum, including sexual health and consent.

All K-9 teachers and teachers of Health/PE in grade 10 must teach the full range of topics as described in the BC Health curriculum, including but not limited to:

- Sexual Health, including (where developmentally appropriate as per BC curriculum) healthy sexual decision making, contraception, and STIs
- Consent (note this topic runs in the BC curriculum from kindergarten to high school)
- Types of psychoactive substances and how to protect themselves and others (note this topic runs in the BC curriculum from kindergarten to high school)



While guest speakers or outside agencies or individuals may be used periodically as a **supplement** to the teacher's delivery of the Health curriculum, no individual or group can replace the role of the classroom teacher in terms of their responsibility to teach the BC Health curriculum.

Any guest speakers being invited into a class to supplement the teaching of the health curriculum must be:

- Licensed professionals in their field (students or interns are not licensed)
- Willing and able to submit all materials being used to the school principal at least **two** weeks prior
- Provide clear alignments between the content they are delivering to the class and the BC curriculum

Parents must be notified of the guest speaker, that speaker's qualifications, and information about the organization they work for at least **one** week prior.

The teacher and principal are responsible for ensuring that any messages provided to children from guest speakers, including information about the use of psychoactive substances, is fully aligned with the BC curriculum and the school's duty of care.