



Almadina Language Charter Academy Board Office

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Alberta Human Rights Act, Section 11.1

New Human Rights Legislation Impacts Education

Section 11.1 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act* comes into effect September 1, 2010, affirming in law a parent's ability to have their child excluded, without academic penalty, from instruction, exercises, and the use of instructional materials that deal **primarily and explicitly** with religion, sexuality, or sexual orientation.

The implementation of this new legislation requires that school boards notify parents when students will be receiving instruction that includes subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation, allowing the opportunity for a parent to have their child opt out. In such cases when a child is exempted from programming under Section 11.1, the child may either:

- a) leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material being used for the duration of that part of the instruction; or
- b) remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of instructional material.

The *Guide to Education* for the 2010-2011 school year contains information on the required notification and is posted at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/resources/guidetoed.aspx>.

Information on notification and curriculum implications, as well as questions and answers for parents and the public is available on the Alberta Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/parents/role.aspx>.