

Policy Statement

The Eastern School Board endorses and supports school-based sexuality-education programs and the installation of condom machines in **schools within the district having grades 7 and above.**

Rationale

The Eastern School Board recognizes that sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancies are serious issues affecting the youth of our school communities. Recent studies have shown that North American youth are engaging in sexual activity at increasingly younger ages and that youth often engage in unprotected sexual activity resulting in teenage pregnancies, as well as increased incidences of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS.

All schools should have a variety of programs to approach the issue of teenage sexual activity. The most successful programs are those that provide a balanced and responsible Sexuality-Education Program coupled with access to condoms. In situations where our youth choose to engage in sexual activity, the Eastern School Board believes that they should be aware of the risks involved and understand that the proper use of condoms is a precaution that will reduce the risks associated with sexual activity.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all schools within the Eastern School Board.

Procedures

- 1.0 The Eastern School District will establish Administrative Regulations that govern the application of this policy.
- 2.0 The Administrative Regulations will be reviewed by the CEO/Director of Education in collaboration with the District Administrative Staff.

Approval

- 3.0 Condom machines can only be installed in schools having grades 7 or above.
- 4.0 Schools will submit all requests for condom machine installation to the district office for approval.

- 5.0 All requests to the district shall include written endorsement from the School Council.
- 6.0 The approval of the CEO/Director of Education is required before any school in the district initiates a School-Based Sexuality-Education Program and/or installs condom machines.

School-Based Sexuality-Education Programs

- 7.0 All parents/guardians will be informed of planned implementation of a School-Based Sexuality-Education Program by the school administration.
- 8.0 Annual reviews of the School-Based Sexuality-Education Program and orientation of new staff, students and parents to the school community will be conducted by school administrators.

Condom Dispensing Machines

- 9.0 Installation of condom dispensing machines will only occur after the implementation of a School-Based Sexuality-Education Program.
- 10.0 All parents and/or guardians will be informed of this installation of condom dispensing machines by the school administration.
- 11.0 A variety of means will be employed to ensure the entire school community understands the role condom dispensing machines play in the School-Based Sexuality-Education Program.
- 12.0 Condom dispensing machines will be installed in both male and female washroom facilities. In schools that have primary and elementary grades, consideration should be given to the sensitivities of this age group in determining the placement of the condom dispensing machines.
- 13.0 The cost associated with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of condom vending machines will normally be the responsibility of the school.

Condom Dispensing

- 14.0 School Counsellors will be permitted to personally dispense condoms to a student upon request from the student, but only on an individual basis and only after counseling and information sharing has occurred.

- 15.0 The decision to dispense condoms will be based upon the professional discretion of the School Counsellor who feels that, in this particular circumstance, dispensing is the most appropriate response.