

After emailing a formal request to opt your child out of sex education and surveys to your child's principal, we suggest you also send a friendly personalized email to your child's teacher to request a broader accommodation than what was included in the request to the principal. **Please note that the Massachusetts sex education opt out law does not cover general LGBTQ content unless that content discusses or displays the physical or sexual implications of homosexuality.** For example, a book such as Heather Has Two Mommies would likely **not** be covered. However, some teachers are willing to work with a parent who politely asks that their family's beliefs be honored. For example, if your child's teacher has planned to read an LGBT themed storybook in your child's elementary classroom the teacher may agree to arrange for your child to go to the school library during that time for an alternate activity instead.

Follow these steps to communicate effectively with your child's principal and teacher(s):

1. Click [here](#) to find a formal opt out letter that can be used to exempt your child from sex education and surveys. Cut and paste the contents of the letter into an email to your child's principal. Fill in your personal information in the yellow highlighted fields. Remove the highlighting before sending the email.
2. In a separate email, forward the email you sent to your child's principal to their teacher also. At the top of the forwarded message cut and paste the contents of the letter below as a personal message to your child's teacher. Fill in your personal information in the yellow highlighted fields. Remove the highlighting before sending the email. Note: if your child is in middle or high school you may repeat this process to notify all of their teachers.

Dear [insert teacher's name],

We are writing to request that our [son/daughter], [insert child's name], be excused from any lessons or activities that contain depictions or discussions of human sexuality, sexual development, non-traditional sexual relationships, the belief that one's gender identity can be different than one's biological sex, or "pride" (as it pertains to LGBTQIA+). This includes, but is not limited to, content found in: lessons, written materials, fiction or non-fiction books, online resources, assignments, surveys, or presentations by guest speakers. Please also notify us in advance of any such lessons, activities, book readings, surveys, or presentations. Additionally, please do not ask [insert child's name] to state or write down [his/her] personal pronouns.

In accordance with MA state law, we have submitted a formal request to Principal [insert principal's name]. However, we wanted to reach out to you directly as well to communicate our wishes as outlined above. If you have any questions or if further clarification would be helpful, please let us know.

While we recognize that some parents do not object to this type of content, we feel strongly that these matters are best discussed at home. Thank you for understanding our position, and for your attention to this matter. We know that your job is difficult and if we can support you in the classroom in any way this year, please don't hesitate to ask. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Respectfully,

[insert parents' names]