

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

Curriculum and Instruction & Professional Development

Student and Parent Curriculum and Instruction Information: Frequently Asked Questions

#	Question	Answer
1	How can I review my student's curriculum and materials?	<p>There are many avenues to view your child's curriculum and materials. Call your site and make an appointment to come in and view them during business hours.</p> <p>You can also call your school site and request information on the online access of materials.</p>
2	What does it mean to "Opt-Out" legally?	<p>"Opt-Out" is a legal term that means: There are some topics that parents have the right to receive prior notice of instruction and they may Opt-Out" their child from being present while the lesson or unit is taught. This means the parent may request that the student be removed from the classroom lesson or unit without any penalty to their grade. An alternative assignment of equal value is given in lieu of the classroom lesson or unit.</p>
3	What topics can a parent "Opt-Out"?	<p>The topics that a parent can "Opt-Out" are as follows:</p> <p><u>Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (Grades 8):</u> Human development, sexuality, education on pregnancy, family planning, and sexually transmitted diseases. California Education Codes: 51931(b), 51933., 51937, 51938.</p> <p><u>HIV/AIDS Prevention Education (Grades 9):</u> Social and public health issues related to HIV/AIDS. California Education Codes: 51931(d); 51934. 51937, 51938.</p> <p><u>Surveys, tests, research, and evaluation:</u> Parents may opt out of voluntary, anonymous and confidential surveys concerning students' health behaviors and risks, including attitudes or practices relating to sex. California Education Codes: 51938(b).</p>

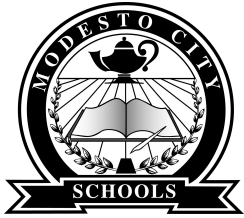


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4	What are the topics parents cannot “Opt-Out” using the definition above?	<p>Under Senate Bill 48, or FAIR Education Act of 2017: The bill added language to <i>Education Code</i> Section 51204.5, which prescribes the inclusion of the contributions of various groups in the history of California and the United States. This section already included men and women and numerous ethnic groups; the expanded language now includes (additions bolded): “...a study of the role and contributions of both men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society.” (definition taken from: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/senatebill48faq.asp)</p> <p>We acknowledge the rights of parents and guardians to information, and support collaboration between parents and districts in the advancement of student educational goals. Those rights include the right to examine curriculum materials of classes in which their children are enrolled, and the right to meet with their child’s teacher and/or principal. We encourage parents and guardians to review the curriculum and speak to their child’s teacher and/or principal.</p>
5	I have questions regarding how the content of sensitive materials will be taught in my child’s classroom. Where do I go for information?	Call your school site and make an appointment with your site administration and/or your student’s teacher. They can support you in understanding how the information is shared.



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6	How do I know when my student's teacher will be teaching a subject that I can "Opt-Out"?	<p>According to Board Policy 1312.2(a), sites will send a letter home informing parents that upcoming lessons will be taught in the near future. In this letter, instructions to "Opt-Out" will be provided.</p> <p>We acknowledge the rights of parents and guardians to information, and support collaboration between parents and districts in the advancement of student educational goals. Those rights include the right to examine curriculum materials of classes in which their children are enrolled, and the right to meet with their child's teacher and/or principal. We encourage parents and guardians to review the curriculum and speak to their child's teacher and/or principal.</p>
7	I decided to "Opt-Out" or have my child be out of class for a lesson. How do I notify my site and teacher?	<p>According to Board Policy 1312.2(a), sites will send a letter home informing parents that upcoming lessons will be taught in the near future. In this letter, instructions for notification will be provided. MCS will provide an alternative lesson to the student.</p>
8	Where can I locate more information about the FAIR Education Act and "Opt-Out" information?	<p>California Department of Education's Frequently Asked Questions page for SB48, The FAIR Education Act: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/senatebill48faq.asp</p> <p>Modesto City School's Parent Curriculum and Instruction Page: https://www.mcs4kids.com/staff/curriculum-and-instruction-professional-development/curriculum-and-instruction-information-for-parents</p>

As additional questions are asked, we will continue to update this FAQ.

Thank you,