

UNDERSTANDING SOGI-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

What is SOGI-Inclusive Education?

SOGI stands for sexual orientation and gender identity. Everyone in our community has their own sexual orientation and gender identity. SOGI-inclusive education encompasses a broad range of topics including identity and inclusion. It aligns seamlessly with our ongoing efforts to foster an equitable learning environment, complementing District initiatives in equity, including racial equity, Indigenous equity, and the inclusion of diverse abilities and needs throughout our district. Its purpose is to reduce bullying and discrimination, and it is not centred in sexuality.

SOGI-inclusive education in the classroom is an approach that fosters a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It promotes diversity, empathy and respect, fostering a welcoming learning environment for every student. Teachers take care to ensure that all subjects are taught in an age-appropriate manner.

Creating an Inclusive Environment:

- **Respect for Diversity:** Teachers promote understanding and respect for diverse family structures and gender identities, ensuring opportunities for all students feel valued and included.
- **Inclusive Language:** Classroom discussions and materials use inclusive language that respect students' identities.
- **Visible Support:** The classroom environment may feature 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusive materials, posters, and imagery to affirm the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Student Learning:

- **Inclusive Practices:** Lessons may include stories, history, contributions and challenges faced by 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and families to promote awareness and challenge stereotypes.
- **Diverse Literature:** Teachers may incorporate books and reading materials featuring 2SLGBTQIA+ characters and themes to reflect the diversity of experiences. It's important for every student to see themselves reflected in school resources, and it is equally important that the diversity of our community is reflected.
- **Open Discussions:** The teacher may have open, age-appropriate and respectful discussions about different sexual orientations and gender identities, creating a safe space for students to understand these topics and have engaging conversations.



Respectful Policies and Practices:

- Anti-Bullying Measures: Schools and the District actively address bullying and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity through clear [policies](#) and [administrative procedures](#).
- Inclusive Assignments: Assignments and activities avoid gender stereotypes and provide students with opportunities to express themselves authentically.

Teacher Training and Support:

- Professional Development: Teachers receive training on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues and inclusive teaching strategies to better support all students.
- Creating Safe Spaces: Teachers approach topics related to SOGI with empathy and compassion, ensuring a safe and respectful space for students to ask questions and share their experiences.

Support Services:

- Counselling and Resources: Schools may offer counselling services and access to resources for students and families who may need assistance with SOGI-related issues or questions.

Student-Led Initiatives:

- Diversity Clubs: Many schools have student-led clubs that provide a supportive and inclusive space for 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied students.

Parent/Caregiver and Guardian Involvement:

- Open Communication: Teachers and schools maintain open communication with families, respecting privacy while addressing concerns and providing information on inclusive practices. If there are safety concerns, schools will contact families.

