

POLICY 171: Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity (SOGI)

The Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) is committed to providing a safe, positive, and inclusive learning and working environment for all students and employees regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In accordance with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *British Columbia Human Rights Code*, the Board values all students and employees.

The Board recognizes that some students and employees may identify as Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, or other affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify (2SLGBTQ+). Therefore, it is expected that the District will:

- Ensure inclusion of all students and employees in all aspects of school life regardless of their sexual orientation, including the right for students to participate in extracurricular activities;
- Define appropriate terms, behaviours, and actions to prevent discrimination, harassment, and exclusion through greater awareness of, and responsiveness to, their harmful effects;
- Ensure that complaints about SOGI-based discrimination are taken seriously and dealt with effectively and in a timely fashion through consistently applied policy and administrative procedures; and
- Raise awareness and improve understanding of the lives of individuals who are discriminated against, harassed, excluded, or feel unsafe based on their sexual orientation.

The Board will strive to ensure that professional growth and training is provided for staff to develop the awareness, knowledge, skills, and attitudes to accomplish the above.