



Safe, Caring and Inclusive Learning and Working Environment

In recent months, there have been discussions and concerns regarding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) inclusive education. It is important to note that SOGI-inclusive education is **not** a separate curriculum; rather, SOGI education is part of human rights education. Every educator in BC is required to teach students about human rights. SOGI education is part of a broader approach that encompasses various aspects of identity and inclusion. Its primary objective is to promote tolerance, respect, and understanding while reducing incidents of violence and discrimination against students, staff and community members who identify as 2S&LGBTQIA+.

SOGI-inclusive education aligns seamlessly with the district's ongoing efforts to foster safe, caring, and inclusive environments. SOGI-inclusive education complements district-wide initiatives in equity, including racial equity, Indigenous equity, and the inclusion of diverse abilities and needs throughout our district. It is meant to reinforce parents' efforts of teaching essential values of tolerance, respect, and acceptance of all people. This collaborative approach ensures that children grow up with a deep appreciation for the diverse individuals who shape and enrich our society.

SOGI-inclusive education is not centered on sexuality, nor does it seek to influence students' sexual orientation or gender identity. Our teachers, administrators, support staff and district staff deeply respect and value the unique individual identities of each student in the district, and we work hard to create safe, caring, and inclusive classroom and school environments.

SOGI is a distinct and separate topic from sexual health education. SOGI-inclusive education fosters understanding, inclusivity, and support, addressing identity, respect, and belonging. Sexual health, within BC's Physical and Health Education curriculum, focuses on biology, physiology, and reproduction, following specific provincial guidelines. Parents or caregivers, in consultation with their school, do have the option to arrange for alternative delivery for certain topics contained in the Physical and Health Education curriculum for K-10 students through our district Alternate Delivery Administrative Procedure.

To ensure that our school communities are well-informed and to address common misconceptions, we have developed resources to provide accurate information about the purpose and impact of SOGI-inclusive education in our classrooms. We encourage you to review our resources link, [Safe, Caring and Inclusive Learning](#).