



What does SOGI-inclusive education look like in a secondary classroom?

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) is not a separate curriculum. SOGI-inclusive education encompasses a broad range of topics including identity and inclusion. Its purpose is to increase representation as a form of harm reduction, thus reducing bullying and discrimination. It is not centred in sexuality.

SOGI-inclusive education in a secondary classroom is an approach that fosters a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all students, representative of sexual orientation and gender identity. It promotes diversity, empathy, and respect, fostering a welcoming, culturally safe, and responsive, inclusive learning environment for every learner. 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 sexual orientations and gender identities, ensuring 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 2S&LGBTQIA+ 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 2S&LGBTQIA+ individuals and families to promote awareness and challenge bias.
- **Diverse Literature:** Teachers may incorporate books and reading materials featuring 2S&LGBTQIA+ 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 as well.
- **Open Discussions:** The teacher may have open, age-appropriate, and respectful discussions about sexual orientations and gender identities, creating a safe and brave space for students to understand these topics and have engaging conversations.



Respectful Policies and Practices:

- **Anti-Bullying Measures:** The school and district actively address bullying and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity through clear policies and interventions.
- **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 2S&LGBTQIA+ issues and inclusive teaching strategies to better support all students.
- **Creating Safe Spaces:** Teachers approach topics related to SOGI with empathy and compassion and gender-neutral language, ensuring a safe and respectful space for students to ask questions and share their experiences.

Support Services:

- **Counselling and Resources:** Schools may offer culturally safe and responsive counselling services and access to resources for students and families who may need assistance with SOGI-related inquiries.

Student-Led Initiatives:

- **Diversity Clubs:** Many secondary schools have student-led clubs that provide a supportive and inclusive space for 2S&LGBTQIA+ and allied students.

Parent and Guardian Involvement:

- **Open Communication:** Teachers and schools maintain open communication with parents and caregivers, respecting privacy while addressing concerns and providing information on inclusive practices and culturally safe and responsive communities of learning. If there are safety concerns, schools will contact parents and caregivers.