



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

What is the truth?

There is a lot of false information about SOGI-inclusive education out there.

We wanted you to have the truth in one place.

This will help parents and community members understand what the truth is when it comes to SOGI in B.C. schools.

Why SOGI?

SOGI is about stopping bullying and making schools a welcoming place for everyone. It's about accepting everyone for who they are. We live in a country where everyone can live freely no matter their race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. SOGI is about giving teachers the tools (like books and activities) to teach kids not to bully others for being who they are.

We know that students do better in school when they feel accepted and like they belong in their school community. When students feel safe, they're more likely to come to school everyday, to perform their best academically and overall to have a sense of well-being.

Parents and members of the community may have heard some things about SOGI that just aren't true. Here are some common things you may have heard along with the truth.

Not True: SOGI was snuck into the curriculum in the last few years and is being forced on kids.

The truth:

SOGI is a set of resources that teachers can use when they're teaching kids not to bully students for their differences. It has been around and used in schools since 2016.

SOGI-inclusive resources are one of many tools that teachers use to make classrooms welcoming places that reflect the diversity of our province, including race, religion, and sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Teachers also have anti-racism resources that they can use as part of those anti-bullying lessons as well.

Not True: SOGI-inclusive education encourages and confuses kids into thinking they should change genders.

The truth: SOGI-inclusive education does not encourage any specific identity or orientation over another and is designed to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, or the diversity in their own families.

The goal of a SOGI-inclusive education is to stop discrimination and bullying by making sure that classroom resources show people from all sorts of backgrounds and give teachers opportunities to talk about the experiences and challenges faced by 2SLGBTQ+ people.

Not True: SOGI-inclusive resources and books contain pornographic and explicit content.

The truth: There is no pornographic or explicit content in B.C.'s K-12 curriculum. All books in classrooms or libraries are approved by schools to ensure they are all age appropriate.

SOGI-inclusive education and resources address topics like different types of families and personal identities, stereotypes, bullying and name-calling.

Not True: SOGI-inclusive education takes away the right for parents to know what their kids are being taught.

The truth: Parents always have a right to know what their kids are being taught. If a parent has questions, they should talk to the teacher directly to learn about what is being taught. SOGI-inclusive education is meant to support parents' own efforts to teach values of tolerance and respect, as well as acceptance of all people. It does not undermine parental rights but rather contributes to a greater understanding of diversity and inclusion for all students and families.

Not True: SOGI-inclusive education is the same thing as sexual health education.

The truth: Sexual health education is taught separately and follows specific guidelines. The Physical and Health Education curriculum continues to cover puberty, reproductive health, and sexual education as well as healthy and active living in age-appropriate ways. Parents always have the option to decide whether their kids take part in these lessons if they are uncomfortable.

SOGI resources are a set of tools that teachers can use to ensure their classrooms are accepting and rooted in respect and belonging.

If you have any questions about your child's education, please talk to their teacher or school principal. We value and encourage open communication with parents and caregivers, and we respect the role parents and caregivers have in raising their children, and as active participants in their student's learning.