

SOGI 123

Presentation to School District No. 83 Board of Trustees
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THE WHY

1996: The Canadian Human Rights Act was amended to specifically include sexual orientation as one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination.

2005: Gay marriage legalized across Canada

2016: BC Human Rights Code adds Gender Identity and expression to protected status.

2016: SOGI 123 implementation begins in BC

2018: SARAVYC study releases stats and a call for action



This fact sheet presents research findings about 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and their cisgender and heterosexual peers in British Columbia, Canada, and beyond.

2SLGBTQIA+ STUDENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

12 EVIDENCE-BASED FACTS

- 1** There is more than XX and XY. Worldwide, people born with bodies outside of traditional male/female categories are as common as people with red hair (or twice the estimated population of Canada).
- 2** 75% of surveyed Canadian transgender youth reported **self-harming** in the past year, nearly 50% experienced **extreme stress** in the past 30 days, and a third had **attempted suicide** in the past year.
- 3** Gay and bisexual male students are **twice as likely to self-harm**. Lesbian and bisexual female students are **two to three times more likely to self-harm**.
- 4** Half of transgender students in BC (ages 14-18) reported being **bullied at school**, 65% were **taunted or ridiculed** and **44% were physically threatened or injured** in the past year.
- 5** Schools are identified by 2SLGBTQIA+ youth as potential **safe havens**.
- 6** Gay and bisexual male students in BC are **less likely to participate in sports** without a coach (65% and 51%, respectively).
- 7** Providing gender-neutral bathrooms to all students **helps 2SLGBTQIA+ youth feel safer at schools**.
- 8** Transgender students in BC who reported feeling **connected to their schools** were twice as likely as those who did not to report **good or excellent mental health**.
- 9** Schools with established GSAs and anti-homophobic bullying policies have **lower odds of discrimination, suicidal thoughts, and attempts** among LGB and heterosexual students.
- 10** A school GSA costs about an hour per week to sponsor a teacher or public health nurse during the school year (about \$1,000). This can **save \$183,000 in healthcare costs**.
- 11** Screening the Out in Schools LGBTQ film program **reduces social exclusion and teasing** among heterosexual and lesbian/bisexual female students.
- 12** Displaying **2SLGBTQIA+ friendly symbols** helps improve 2SLGBTQIA+ youths' self-esteem and fosters a sense of belonging.



WHAT IS SOGI AND WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN SCHOOLS?

INCLUSION OF ALL FAMILIES

For some students and families, SOGI is a window and for others, it's a mirror. It is not a distinct curriculum, but rather an inclusive lens for all subjects.

CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

SOGI-inclusive education is about students having age-appropriate conversations about the SOGI diversity in society and the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect.

REDUCE DAMAGING STEREOTYPES

SOGI-inclusiveness reinforces that it is okay to be yourself.

A PLACE TO BELONG

SOGI is one of many topics about diversity discussed regularly in schools, such as when educators speak about race, ethnicity, religion, and ability. SOGI-inclusive education simply means speaking about SOGI in a way that ensures every student feels like they belong.



HELPFUL TERMINOLOGY

Straight, cisgender, 2SLGBTQIA+, non-binary

Pronouns



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 83

SOGI INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IMPLEMENTATION

- Board Policy 121 (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)
- District Lead Position
- School Lead Training
- Development of SD83 SOGI Guidelines
- CEA Education
- Bus Driver Education
- Clerical Education
- PVP Education
- Board of Trustees Education

DIRECT STUDENT SUPPORT

- GSA and Diversity Clubs
- Itinerant and School-Based Counsellor Support
- Visible signs of classroom and school welcome and safety
- Accessible single stall washrooms
- “All Gender” staff washrooms



RESOURCES & STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

SOGI-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 83 SOGI GUIDELINES

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & CHILD CARE
BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION
BC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION
FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE
FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION AND MÉTIS NATION BC
BC ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
BC PRINCIPALS' AND VICE-PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION
CUPE BC
BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS
FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS
ARC FOUNDATION
BC TEACHER LIBRARIAN ASSOCIATION