

There are often misconceptions about what SOGI-inclusive education is and what it looks like in our schools. Here are some common myths and the corresponding facts about SOGI-inclusive education:



Myth

VS

Fact

MYTH: SOGI-inclusive education is a recent and controversial addition to education.

FACT: SOGI-inclusive education, like the inclusion of diverse cultures and races, has been part of the broader goal for diversity and inclusion in our schools for decades. Although SOGI has gained increased attention recently, it is not a new concept and is supported by many educational organizations, school districts, and child development and health experts. Sexual orientation and gender identity are also protected under the BC Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and provincial legislation.

MYTH: SOGI-inclusive education is not needed because these issues are not relevant to all students.

Fact: These issues are relevant to every student. SOGI-inclusive education is intended to foster inclusivity and respect, address issues of discrimination and bullying, and build understanding and empathy among all students. Furthermore 2SLGBTQ+ students are members of our school communities and often face unique challenges related to their identity. Studies show that having inclusive classrooms and SOGI-specific anti-bullying policies improve the school climate, reducing discrimination, depression, anxiety, substance use, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts for ALL students. SOGI resources help ensure schools are welcoming for every person and allow teachers to address important topics in a safe and age-appropriate manner.

MYTH: School libraries have books that are not safe for children.

FACT: School libraries and learning commons are safe spaces for children and youth. Our school district has a comprehensive guide that helps support our teacher librarians when selecting books for school libraries. This guide includes specific criteria that both elementary and secondary librarians must consider. This ensures that the books selected are developmentally appropriate and reflect our diverse community, including 2SLGBTQ+ students and families.

Within our secondary schools, a wide range of books are available that address diverse and, at times, mature subject matter. School libraries offer a controlled environment where students can explore these topics safely and in a structured manner. Having access to resources that delve into diverse and mature subjects is vital for older students, eliminating reliance on potentially unreliable or harmful internet sources. Moreover, it guarantees that a trusted adult is on hand to provide support if required.

If you have any questions about your child's education, please talk to your school. We value and encourage open communication with parents and caregivers, and work hard to ensure parents and caregivers are well-informed and actively engaged in their child's educational journey.

