



## Resources

### **Surrey School Board Policy 9410 (Safe and Caring Schools) and Regulation 9410.2 (Safe and Caring Schools: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression)**

This district policy and regulation highlights the district's commitment and expectations regarding support for LGBTQ+ students, staff and families.

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/departments/SECT/PoliciesRegulations/Pages/default.aspx>

### **SOGI 1 2 3**

SOGI 1 2 3 shares proven SOGI-inclusive tools and resources in the areas of policy and procedures, inclusive environments and curriculum resources.

[www.sogieducation.org](http://www.sogieducation.org)

### **BC Teachers Federation**

The BCTF offers a variety of free workshops for teachers to develop skills to interrupt, address, and challenge homophobia and transphobia within our classrooms and school communities.

<https://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=17988>

### **Focused Education Resource (formerly BCERAC)**

BCERAC provides a range of services including evaluation, licensing and acquisition of print, software, and digital learning resources. ERAC offers a curated catalogue of SOGI resources (see LGBTQ collection)

<http://www.bcerac.ca/index.aspx>

### **Out in Schools**

Out in Schools presentations bring films into classrooms to inspire youth to step into the challenges and the triumphs of LGBT2Q+ communities. The presentations offer a chance to build participation in and creation of Queer Straight Alliances across the province. The Rise Against Homophobia Video Contest offers youth the chance to create and use media as a vehicle not only for personal expression, but also for shaping more inclusive school communities.

<http://outinschools.com/about/>



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[surreyschools.ca](http://surreyschools.ca)

For further resources, please see  
[www.surreyschools.ca/SOGI](http://www.surreyschools.ca/SOGI)



# Safe and Inclusive Environments



**“We don’t just want to be tolerated. We want to be celebrated.”**

(Sheba, Aria, Maya – Gr. 10 & 11 Surrey Students)

### Background

In 2013 the Surrey School District worked with parents, students, employees and community groups to develop a policy to support safety and inclusion for all students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

*“Creating safe and caring environments for all students and staff is a top priority of the district.*

*While the district is responsible to ensure that all students are treated with respect and dignity, the district also recognizes that school community members identifying (either publicly or privately) as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer, questioning (LGBTQ2S+) face a unique set of challenges within schools and communities.*

*All members of the Surrey School District share the responsibility for upholding the values inherent in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and for supporting students and staff in addressing and facing these unique challenges. Homophobic and or transphobic comments, discrimination, bullying, and attacks are demeaning to all students, parents or guardians and employees regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.” (District Policy 9410)*

The most important task for schools is to provide a safe, nurturing, non-violent atmosphere in which to learn, to grow and to develop for all students, inclusive of all gender identities.

Public Health Agency of Canada

**LGBTQ+ students, staff and families are celebrated and have the right to be seen, valued, and heard for who they are.**

It is important for all members of the school community to see themselves reflected positively in the environment around them. As such, the district is committed to promoting, supporting and creating learning spaces that value the rich diversity of our communities, including those who identify as LGBTQ+.

This commitment aligns with legal requirements that came into force in 2016 when the provincial government amended the B.C. Human Rights Code to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination. As of December 31, 2016, all British Columbian boards of education and independent school authorities are required to reference sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in district and school codes of conduct.

### What is SOGI?

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is a term used in the Human Rights Code to describe an area of prohibited discrimination. SOGI is an inclusive term that encompasses all individuals regardless of where they identify on the sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression spectrums.

### What is SOGI 123?

To support inclusion in schools, SOGI 123 was created by the ARC Foundation, in collaboration with the B.C. Ministry of Education, B.C. Teachers’ Federation, school districts across the province, UBC Faculty of Education, and various local, national and international LGBTQ2S+ community organizations. Together, they developed a collection of resources and information aimed at helping educators build inclusive environments.

SOGI 123 provides resources in three areas: 1—policy and procedures; 2—inclusive environments; 3—curriculum resources.

Use of these resources is supported by the district and teachers are encouraged to integrate them throughout their practice to create safe, welcoming and inclusive school environments for all youth, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

The SOGI 123 network includes public school districts and independent schools and is supported by provincial organizations such as BC Families for Inclusivity, Christians for SOGI 123, BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils), FNSA (First Nations Schools Association) and FNEESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee).

### Is SOGI in the B.C. Curriculum?

SOGI is not a prescribed curriculum or distinct program. Rather, sexual orientation and gender identity are embedded in several curricular areas, most notably in physical and health education, social studies and language arts. As with all topics in all curricular areas, these are introduced and discussed in developmentally appropriate ways.

Central to B.C.’s curriculum are the Core Competencies – the intellectual, personal, social and emotional proficiencies all students need to engage in deep and life-long learning. This includes the Personal and Social Competency that emphasizes the set of abilities that relate to students’ identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. It encompasses the abilities students need to thrive as individuals, to demonstrate self-respect, to understand and respect the rights of others, and to empathize with others and appreciate their perspectives.

The Personal and Social Competency, along with curriculum, legislation, policy, and our commitment as a district – all support the full development of human potential within safe and inclusive environments where every student, parent, and staff member are treated with dignity and respect. Every person’s uniqueness is valued, honoured and celebrated in the richly diverse communities of Surrey Schools.