

Understanding SOGI-Inclusive Resources: A Guide For Parents & Caregivers

What are SOGI-inclusive resources?

SOGI stands for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. SOGI-inclusive resources are one of many tools used by teachers in our school district to foster understanding and acceptance of every member of our community, regardless of race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Key points about SOGI-inclusive resources

- **They are an essential component of inclusive education**
SOGI-inclusive resources equip teachers with the tools needed to provide factual information, foster empathy, and help students understand and respect the diversity of our community and the importance of using inclusive language.
- **They foster respect and empathy**
SOGI-inclusive resources address topics like diverse identities, family diversity, stereotypes, bullying and name-calling.
- **They respect parental rights**
SOGI-inclusive education is meant to complement parents' efforts in teaching essential values of tolerance, respect, and acceptance of all people. Our schools adopt an approach that is mindful of parental concerns, while ensuring students are equipped for a diverse world.

Parental Involvement:

We encourage parents and caregivers to engage in open and respectful discussions with their children about the information presented in all classroom resources. Parents and caregivers are always welcome to reach out to their child's teacher, principal, or the district if they have any questions or concerns.

These resources play a critical role in creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for our students and staff, and prepare our learners to think creatively and critically, communicate skillfully, and demonstrate care for self and others. These resources aim to reduce bullying and discrimination, and they are not centred in sexuality.

- **They are age-appropriate**
All students learn about topics such as respect, compassion, and diversity, while more complex topics such as discrimination and injustice are explored in a developmentally and age-appropriate manner.
- **They provide support for 2SLGBTQ+ students**
SOGI-inclusive resources provide support, a sense of belonging and affirmation for 2SLGBTQ+ students who may otherwise feel isolated or marginalized. They help create an environment where all students can thrive.
- **They benefit all students**
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.

Our Commitment:

The Surrey School District is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for every student, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. SOGI-inclusive resources are just one of many tools we use to achieve this goal.

Together, we can create a more understanding, inclusive and accepting community.