



UNDERSTANDING SOGI RESOURCES: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

What are SOGI resources?

SOGI stands for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. SOGI 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.

<https://www.sogieducation.org/our-work/where-we-support/british-columbia/>

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

Key points about SOGI resources

- **They are an essential component of safe, respectful and tolerant educational environment**

SOGI educational 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 safe and caring language.

- **They foster respect and empathy**

SOGI resources address topics like diverse identities, family diversity, stereotypes, bullying, racism, discrimination and name-calling.

- **They respect parental rights**

SOGI education is meant to complement parents' and caregivers' 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 and complex world.

- **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**



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SOGI 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 feel safe, thrive, understand and accept differences while addressing SOGI-specific anti-bullying policies can improve the school climate, reducing discrimination, depression, anxiety, substance use, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts for ALL students.

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.

Our Commitment:

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

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