

## **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)**

The Board of Education is committed to honouring diversity and ensuring a culture of inclusion for all students and staff in School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade). This includes gender identity and sexual orientation as guaranteed under the BC Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Further, the Board believes that in order for all students to thrive and live authentic lives, it is essential that our schools are inclusive and free of discrimination where students feel safe, accepted, respected and welcome. The Board of Education, at their regular meeting on October 3, 2017, voted unanimously to support inclusive educational environments for all students by implementing the Ministry of Education's sexual orientation and gender identity directives, including the use of SOGI 123 resources:

*THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) provide approval for the district to join the SOGI (Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity) Educators' Network.*

The Board of Education has an obligation to educate students about sexual and gender identity, and to do so in a manner which allows all individuals to develop a positive self-identity and to be assured they are welcome and



650 Kawkawa Lake Road  
Hope, BC V0X 1L4

Phone (604) 869-2411 (Hope Residents)  
Phone (604) 796-2225 (Agassiz Residents)  
[www.sd78.bc.ca](http://www.sd78.bc.ca)

supported in the public education system.

It is not open to any BC School District to exempt a student from instruction aligned with the mandatory learning outcomes. Parents are, however, permitted to offer alternative delivery only for sexual health education. If parents choose to exempt their children from sexual health education, they must provide proof that their child has received instruction and is meeting the learning goals in keeping with the sexual health portion of the BC physical health curricula. The SOGI inclusive education *does not* fall under the umbrella of alternative delivery options, except where it pertains to sexual health education.

It is important to understand and know that the Minister of Education — and other organizations that have an interest and obligation to children in public and private schools — are key supporters of the SOGI 123 teaching materials. SOGI 123 is also approved through the Educational Resource Acquisition Consortium (ERAC).

If parents have questions regarding implementation of the SOGI curriculum, they are encouraged to contact their child's teacher and/or the school principal. To obtain further information on SOGI 123, please visit the following website: [www.sogieducation.org](http://www.sogieducation.org)