

Sample Scripts for Educators

What Is SOGI?

Everyone has a sexual orientation and gender identity. That's SOGI. Since we all have a sexual orientation and gender identity, this is a conversation that includes all of us. Some students may be figuring out their sexual orientation or gender identity. Others already know where they fit but need to hear and be reminded that they are safe and welcome to share their true self with the world.

SOGI-inclusive education is about understanding and supporting the diversity that already exists in our schools, our communities, and our world.

What About That Other Acronym?

You may be familiar with another acronym: 2SLGBTQ+. This represents more marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities. The letters stand for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. The plus sign is for other identities that also fit under this umbrella.

What is SOGI-Inclusive Education?

Schools are responsible for creating safe, inclusive learning environments for all students. Unfortunately, homophobia and transphobia are still common in schools. These are harmful to all students, and particularly 2SLGBTQ+ students, families, and staff. SOGI-inclusive education works to change that.

SOGI-inclusive education is about making sure that schools have inclusive policies, welcoming learning environments, and classroom resources that include all students and families. It considers all parts of the education system and makes changes so that students of all sexual orientations and gender identities feel safe and can succeed.

SOGI-inclusive education is delivered in an age-appropriate way, with content that is tailored to each age group and context.

Supporting Conversations About SOGI

Conversations at School

No one is too young for topics of diversity and acceptance. Human diversity already exists in the world around your children, and it is something that children are observing and wondering about from a very young age. Themes of romance, identity, gender, and belonging are already in many kids' books, movies, and games. Avoiding these subjects or hiding the existence of sexual orientation and gender identity can lead to confusion.

There are appropriate ways to explore these topics at every age. For example, in a grade one classroom, an age-appropriate way to talk about sexual orientation is to read the book *A Family is a Family is a Family*. Students learn that every family is different: one family has kids who live with

their grandmother, and another has step-siblings from past relationships, and yet another has two gay dads.

Educators use evidence-based approaches that align with human rights standards. SOGI inclusion in schools is not a new or untested concept. It is an evidence-based approach that has been researched, debated, and integrated into our legislation and human rights codes slowly across decades.

Confidentiality is important for building a sense of trust and safety. In 1989, the United Nations recognized the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It outlines 42 universal rights of children worldwide, including the right to privacy. We know that children's wellbeing improves when they have safe adults who they can talk to, including parents as well as school staff. We also know that children thrive when

parents as well as school staff. We also know that children thrive when schools and families work together. Educators can support the parent-child relationship by working with students to share information about their identities at home when they are ready.

Conversations at Home

You can create a safe space for open dialogue about SOGI topics in your home. Talking about SOGI is important for all parents to do with their children, for two reasons. First, these conversations will help your child better understand the world around them. Second, if your child has an identity that fits within the 2SLGBTQ+ community, it will create a sense of safety for them, and they will be more likely to share that information with you sooner rather than later.

Creating a sense of trust and openness is important, especially if you think your child is questioning their identity. If you're not sure where to start, try saying something like, "I want you to know that I love you no matter what. You can always tell me anything or ask about anything you need help understanding."

Check the family resources list at the end of this document for more ideas or reach out to your child's school counsellor.

Families are often the most important people in children's lives. Supportive adults can make a world of difference to a kid who is coming out and leads to better mental health. Supportive and accepting parents are especially important and lead to positive outcomes for their children.

There is a lot of stigma around coming out, and your child may fear being judged, even if you would be completely supportive of them. Because of this, children may feel that first talking to another trusted adult such as an educator is easier than starting off with the most important people in their life – you!

You might experience many different emotions if your child shares this sort of news with you, including grief, loss, frustration, or even guilt. All of this is valid. While you need to process your own emotions, remember that your child likely feels vulnerable. Prioritize compassion over comprehension, and trust that you'll be able to learn more over time.

Addressing Common Myths

Myth: There is a special 'SOGI curriculum' that contains sexually explicit material.

Fact: The only curriculum being taught in your child's classroom is the standard government curriculum, which is publicly available online. Every teacher decides how to approach curriculum requirements in their own way, based on thorough professional training – creating lesson plans and identifying teaching resources that they know to be informative, engaging, accurate, current, and age-appropriate. SOGI 123 offers resources that help teachers meet curriculum requirements in a SOGI-inclusive way. These resources focus on representation and inclusion and are different than sexual health education.

Myth: SOGI-inclusive education pushes children to become gay or transgender.

Fact: Sexual orientation and gender identity are parts of who a person is. Nobody can change that, and nobody is trying to. The goal of SOGI-inclusive education is to create a school environment where every child can be their authentic self, without fear of harassment, discrimination, or being left out by others. Positive representation of the diversity that already exists all around us improves mental health outcomes for all students.

Myth: Gender ideology' is a fad, and we don't know the long-term consequences of supporting transgender youth.

Fact: Transgender people have always existed. Many know their true gender identity from a very young age. Studies across decades consistently show that supporting students in their identities leads to better emotional, social, health, and academic outcomes.

What about other myths?

New myths pop up all the time—some easily believable, and others much more far-fetched. If you ever hear something concerning, reach out to your school's administration for clarification, or check out the additional resources at the end of this document.

Quick Responses for Talking About 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion With Parents and Community Members

"This goes against our rights to teach our children our own set of family values."

- Public schools are a place where students learn about all kinds of different value systems.
- Your family's personal values are very important to your child, regardless of what is being learned in school.
- Individual families will always have a range of values. Schools have a duty to teach the societal value of respect for all.

"It's trans recruitment!" or "They're teaching about sex!"

- People do not become gay, bi, trans, or anything in between simply because they know these identities exist. SOGI-inclusive education does not encourage students to identify in any specific way, rather provides an environment where students can express themselves safely and authentically.
- SOGI-inclusive education is rooted in non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies schools already have. It is not about sex.

"This goes against my faith/culture"

- 2SLGBTQ+ people are from every ethnicity, religion/faith, age, demographic, are found all over the world and throughout history.
- Many religious/faith-based organizations and followers are supportive of 2SLGBTQ+ people and many 2SLGBTQ+ people are religious/practice faith.

"My child is too young for this topic!"

- Diversity itself is always age appropriate. SOGI is one of many topics about diversity and inclusion that may come up at school.
- Classroom content should be a mirror and a window: it reflects the experiences of students and families, while providing opportunities for students to see what diversity exists in the world.
- Students of all ages have self-determination and will always be able to freely discuss their families and themselves – that includes families with two moms, two dads, foster families, adoptive families, biracial families, and everything in between.

Relevant Research:

- [Still In Every Class In Every School](#)
Published by Egale Canada, 2021
 - [National Inventory of School System Interventions for LGBTQ Student Well-being and School Connectedness](#)
Published by SARAVYC, 2018
 - [Being Safe, Being Me 2019: Results of the Canadian Trans and Non-binary Youth Health Survey](#)
Published by SARAVYC, 2019
 - ["Students feel safer here, and more included:" Evaluation of SOGI 123 in BC](#)
Published by SARAVYC, 2024
-

Family Resources:

- [SOGI 123 Resources](#)
[Commonly Asked Questions](#) and [Parent Resources](#)
- [Helpful Resources](#)
Published by PFLAG Canada
- [Adults Supporting 2SLGBTQI Youth](#)
Published by Egale Canada
- [Gender Identity Development from ages 2 and up](#)
Published by the Canadian Paediatric Society
- [What to Do When Your Child Comes Out to You](#)
Published by Egale Canada
- [Parents: Quick Tips for Supporting Your LGBTQ Kids—and YOURSELF—During the Coming-Out Process](#)
Published by PFLAG
- [Common Myths and Misconceptions About Trans Youth](#)
Published by Egale Canada
- [Rainbow Action Hub: Understanding and Combatting Mis/Dis/Malinformation](#)
Published by Egale Canada
- [Building Bridges: 2SLGBTQI & Affirming Faith Workbooks](#)
Published by Egale Canada