

October 10, 2023

Dear Abbotsford School District families,

A welcoming education system for all K-12 students and their families is essential for student success. Research has shown us that when students feel a sense of safety, belonging, and acceptance, it positively impacts school attendance, feelings of attachment and connectedness, academic achievement and overall well-being.

We feel it is imperative to address the narrative surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in our community, and we want to provide you with credible resources to support your ongoing learning.

### **Building Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools**

Parents and caregivers instill values at home. Schools provide learning opportunities to support inclusivity and help students develop as global, educated citizens.

**SOGI 123 is NOT part of the BC curriculum.** These learning resources are not mandated or required but serve as a toolkit educators can use to talk about diverse topics and build welcoming spaces where all students can learn, grow and thrive.

--> [VIDEO: BCCPAC + ECC - Understanding SOGI 123](#)

--> [WEB: ECC - erase discrimination | embrace inclusion](#)

Physical and Health Education is part of the BC curriculum and does include learning on sensitive topics related to reproduction and sexuality. What students learn throughout their K-12 journey is clearly [outlined on the Ministry of Education and Child Care \(ECC\) website](#), broken down by grade. Parents/caregivers can choose whether their child learns about these topics at home, at school, or both ([see AP 211](#)).

### **Open Communication between Schools & Families**

Building positive relationships between parents and educators is a cornerstone of our school district. If you have questions around a lesson plan your child is learning, ask the classroom

teacher for more information. If you are curious about a learning resource at your child's school, connect with the School Principal.

Our goal is to work together and foster positive relationships to ensure that all students can learn in safe and inclusive environments.

1. **Have a concern?** Start with the person whose action has given rise to the concerns or problem. This is the best place to start.
2. **Talk to the Principal.** If you need further assistance with your concern, your school's principal is the next point of contact to connect with.
3. **Contact the Assistant Superintendent.** If you feel your concerns are not resolved at the school level, contact an Assistant Superintendent at the district level by calling 604.859.4891 or emailing [info@abbyschools.ca](mailto:info@abbyschools.ca).
4. **Write to the Board of Education.** If you feel steps one through three were not successful, or if a District administrator's decision significantly affects a student's education, health or safety, parents may appeal in writing to the Board of Education.

We remain steadfast in our priority of providing safe learning and working environments for all students and employees and cultivating space to ensure everyone in our organization feels respected, valued and supported.

Thank you,

Korky Neufeld  
Board Chair  
Abbotsford Board of Education

Sean Nosek  
Superintendent of Schools / CEO  
Abbotsford School District