

**B O A R D**  
MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 27, 2022  
**To:** Board of Trustees  
**From:** Shawna Walter, Acting Superintendent  
**Originator(s):** Jonathan Konrad, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Education Services  
**Subject:** SOGI 123 Partnership Update

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**Purpose:**

For information.

**Background:**

SOGI 123 was created by ARC Foundation in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Education; BC Teachers' Federation; school districts across BC; UBC Faculty of Education; education partners; and various local, national, and international 2SLGBTQ+ community organizations. SOGI 123 helps educators make schools inclusive and safe for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

In Alberta, SOGI 123 is working with six school districts to enhance the SOGI Educator Network as an innovative pilot project: Edmonton Public School Board, St. Albert Public Schools, Sturgeon Public Schools, Elk Island Public Schools, Aspen View Public School Division, and Fort McMurray School District.

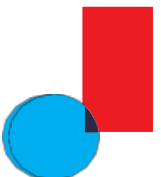
SOGI 123 supports these pilot school divisions to improve inclusive policies, environments and teaching resources. In Alberta, the Ministry of Education is responsible for the creation of the Alberta curriculum. SOGI 123 can support the implementation of this curriculum by helping teachers ensure their lessons and the classroom environment treats everyone with respect and dignity. All students need to see themselves and their families reflected in lessons, language, and practices.

Sturgeon Public Schools partnered with SOGI 123 and the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No. 27 in 2016 to ensure each school has a Safe Contact. A Safe Contact is a staff member knowledgeable in supporting all students, respecting diversity and promoting inclusion.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the April 27, 2022, Public Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M. Ed  
Acting Superintendent



# SAFE CONTACT SOGI 123

2015 - 2022

The journey to build inclusive schools where students feel safe, accepted, respected and welcome



## Building Safe and Caring Schools



The journey began in 2015

Sturgeon Public Schools is committed to maintaining safe and caring schools that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging for all students and staff, including those who identify as sexual or gender minorities. The Division established a partnership with the Alberta Teachers Association Local No. 27 to ensure each school has staff who are knowledgeable in supporting diversity. In 2016, Sturgeon Public Schools joined two other jurisdictions to begin working with SOGI 123 in Alberta. This partnership supports teachers with professional development and resources to build inclusive learning environments.

Each year Sturgeon Public Schools celebrates Pride Week to honour diversity and uniqueness. In 2017-2018, Sturgeon students, parents and staff marched in the Edmonton Pride Parade, along with their CUPE and ATA local associations. Sturgeon Public Schools continues to support activities and gay-straight alliances to ensure everyone is safe and welcome in their schools.



# Building Safe and Caring Schools

## SOGI 1

### POLICIES

The key components of effective SOGI-inclusive policies and procedures

## SOGI 2

### ENVIRONMENTS

Practices and behaviours that lead to SOGI-inclusive learning environments

## SOGI 3

### RESOURCES

SOGI-inclusive lesson plans that align with the current K-12 curriculum



SOGI  
123

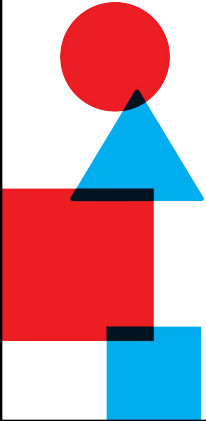
<https://ab.sogieducation.org/> | [6 Min Video on SOGI 123 in Alberta](#)

## 2015-2016

- **Partnership with SOGI 123 begins**
  - Access to resources, establishes networks and support for teachers
- **The Board of Trustees establishes policy**
  - 110 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights
  - 115 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression
- **The related Administrative Procedures are created**
  - AP711 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights
  - AP712 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression
- **Safe Contact Cohort framework established**
- **Division and ATA Local joint partnership established to plan and facilitate Professional Development for SPS staff**

## 2016-2022

- Bank of Resources
- Gay-straight alliances
- School-based plans for Pride Week
- Professional Learning for staff
- SOGI Inclusive Classrooms
- Steering Committee re-established to include:
  - Principal
  - Counsellor
  - CO Rep from Education Services
  - ATA member
  - DEHR member



**Sturgeon  
Public Schools**

Dare to reimagine learning



**ACHIEVING**  
**CREATIVE**  
**CONNECTED**  
**CARING**  
**VIBRANT**  
**WELCOMING**