

SOGI 123

September can be an exciting time for many, one filled with hope and enthusiasm for the start of the school year! For some, back-to-school can also come with feelings of distress, worry, and fear. Meeting new people can prompt uncertainty over whether they will be accepted for who they are. Unfortunately, research tells us that 62% of 2SLGBTQ+ students feel unsafe at school, compared to 11% of their cisgender heterosexual counterparts.

For years, educators and administrators have been building the knowledge, skills, and resources

needed to support 2SLGBTQ+ students and families, however, we know there is still work to be done. Which is why **ARC Foundation**, through **SOGI 123**, works with educators and education organizations to create spaces where students, families, and members of the school community can feel safe, seen, accepted, and welcome.

As we embark on the 2026-27 school year, we are celebrating 10 years of SOGI 123 in BC schools! There are thousands of educators connecting through the SOGI Educator Network to create safer and more

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Do you know who the SOGI Lead is in your School or District?

**If not, please reach out to us at
info@sogieducation.org
and allow us to connect you!**

inclusive learning experiences in their schools. Over the next 10 months, we will be sharing more about how SOGI 123 got started, some of the exciting progress we've seen, as well as some of the challenges we've encountered along the way. If you're not already subscribed, we invite you to [join our email list](#) to learn more about this 10-year journey, and stay up to date on SOGI-inclusive education supports and resources.

This fall, we are excited to bring you new resources to help support SOGI-inclusion in your school or district. We know that parents are such an integral part of building safer and more inclusive school communities.

To explore our website and resources, please visit [SOGIeducation.org](https://sogieducation.org). For further information on SOGI 123, please contact us at info@sogieducation.org.

We are currently working with parents to better understand what they need to navigate conversations around topics related to sexual orientation and gender identity. We will use this information to build a toolkit tailored for parents who are looking for ways to get involved.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the BCPVPA for their ongoing leadership in fostering SOGI-inclusive education in BC through the efforts of SOGI 123. BCPVPA's leadership and voice truly help create alignment and ensure 2SLGBTQ+ students can feel safe, welcome, and see themselves – and be seen – in their school communities.

There are thousands of educators connecting through the SOGI Educator Network to create safer and more inclusive learning experiences in their schools.



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Looking for ways to incorporate SOGI 123 into your back-to-school planning?

- 1** Talk to your SOGI School Lead! Ask them what they need from you and build a plan together.
- 2** Visit our website, SOGIeducation.org for ideas on how to implement and support SOGI-inclusive education efforts in your school.
- 3** Small changes can make a big difference. See if there is one thing that you can commit to for the year ahead. Feel free to share that commitment with your colleagues and encourage them to do the same!

Resources we're excited about this fall:

1. **Common Questions About SOGI in Schools** – *This resource was created in collaboration with educators and parents to address some of the most common questions being asked about SOGI-inclusive education. We're excited to be offering this resource in additional languages such as Arabic, Farsi, and Punjabi.*
2. **Navigating Complex Conversations** – *This resource includes practical strategies to support you in navigating disinformation, confusion, and conflict about SOGI-inclusive education as you create safer and more inclusive school communities.*
3. **Safeguarding SOGI in Schools** – *This toolkit is for anyone connected to the school system – from staff and students to parents and community members – and offers strategies for how to respond in the face of resistance to SOGI-inclusive education. Find the approach that works for you and your context from the many options available.*