

Support for LGBTQ+ Students

There are many teachers and staff that are working hard to make our school an inclusive space where we acknowledge differences and celebrate all people. We want all staff and students at CHSS to feel accepted and safe, to work together to reduce all forms of bullying and harassment, and to provide support for students who are struggling with personal and interpersonal issues around gender and sexual identity.

At CHSS, students and staff participate in school-wide awareness activities such as Pink Day, Ally Week, No Name Calling Week, the GLSEN Day of Silence, and National Coming Out Day. SD#57 has created a SOGI (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity) policy, which is in place to set expectations for all people at school district 57 sites and protect LGBTQ+ students.

*LGBTQ+ = Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual / Transgender / Questioning/Queer and any other people who identify as being a sexual or gender minority person.

There are many resources for LGBTQ+ students at CHSS. Please, talk to your counsellor or a teacher that you trust. Students also have access to many on line resources:

SOGI 123: www.sogieducation.org

PFLAG- <https://pflagcanada.ca/>

GLSEN: <https://www.glsen.org/>

Erase (Expect Respect and a Safe Education): www.ERASE.gov.bc.ca

Provincial crises lines and online support for youth: www.Youthinbc.com

National call, text, or online support for youth: +1 800 668-6868 or visit: www.Kidshelpphone.ca

Online trans-led organization that connects trans people to resources, including a call-in line: www.Translifeline.org

A growing list of peer support groups throughout B.C. for LGBTQ2S+ students and their families: www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/care-support/access-care/srvc-directory

Learn more about the WE Well-being program: www.we.org/en-CA/get-doing/activities-and-resources/wellbeing/

Good News in Education celebrates teachers, staff, students, parents and communities who are going above and beyond. Read their stories: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/safeschools/goodnews>

Accurate, timely information about schools, programs and educational services, including regularly updated frequently asked questions in multiple languages, is available online: www.gov.bc.ca/SafeSchools

Facts about B.C.'s LGBTQ2S+ students and supports for them

According to a 2018 McCreary Centre Society Study of B.C. adolescents:

- 11% of male and 22% of female B.C. high school students identify as gay, lesbian, bi or not exclusively heterosexual.
- 0.5% of B.C. high school students identify as transgender, and 2% identify as non-binary (neither male or female).
- LGBTQ2S+ youth were seven times more likely than heterosexual youth to attempt suicide (28% compared to 4%).
- 54% of LGBTQ2S+ students experienced bullying, violence and homophobic slurs.

Supports:

- ARC Foundation is a society founded on June 3, 2008, to act as a charitable foundation with a mission is to build awareness, respect and capacity through education.
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) 123 is a resource that provides schools and teachers with ready-to-use, grade-level appropriate materials that align with B.C.'s new curriculum.
- The ministry, ARC Foundation and 10 provincial K-12 education partners are included in the Provincial SOGI K-12 Collaborative.
- All of B.C.'s 60 school districts have SOGI-inclusive codes of conduct, and independent schools have SOGI-inclusive harassment and bullying prevention policies in place.