

TEACHING ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY IS GROOMING STUDENTS TO BE QUEER OR TRANS

According to Public Safety Canada (2023) "Grooming is when someone builds trust with a child to gain access to and control the child by normalizing certain behaviours and expectations". Conflating 2SLGBTQIA+ identities with child grooming is offensive and incredibly dangerous and irresponsible. It is rooted in the belief that queer and trans people and their self-expression is inherently sexual, abnormal, problematic and/or 'less than' their heterosexual peers. In labeling 2SLGBTQ+ people and inclusive education as grooming, it minimizes other legitimate claims of grooming in which children experience harm. Moreover, it wastes time and resources, can damage a teachers professional reputation, and if discrimination which could be the basis for legal action.



HOW TO RESPOND TO DISINFORMATION IN YOUR CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY

MYTH

"TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY WILL LEAD THEM TO MAKE HARMFUL DECISIONS"

FACT

According to Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, sexual health education can "prevent and reduce gender-based and intimate partner violence and discrimination. Increase confidence, gender equality, and our ability to achieve our goals. Build stronger and healthier relationships." Providing education around sexual health, gender identity, and sexuality, empowers children and youth to make safe and informed decisions rooted in facts instead of misinformation.

More FROM SAFER:

Use the QR Code below to access additional tipsheets and info on the SAFER project.



EXAMPLE RESPONSE:

"That is an incredibly harmful reaction to having provided students with sexual health education and 2SLGBTQIA+ awareness. It jeopardizes and minimizes actual experiences of grooming and sexual exploitation of children, and it is just plain wrong. Teaching students about sexual health and 2SLGBTQIA+ identities is not "sexualizing" them or "recruiting" them into 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. This disinformation is wrongfully rooted in the belief that 2SLGBTQIA+ people and topics are inherently predatory, and I reject this view not only as an educator, but as an advocate for the wellbeing of my students."

EXAMPLE RESPONSE:

"Actually, according to our school board mandate, I have an obligation to keep students safe and provide them with education that will allow them to foster their own sense of safety, community, and knowledge. It is well-known that teaching sexual health education and 2SLGBTQIA+ identities is a practice that keeps children safe because it gives them vocabulary to talk about their own experiences, because we all have our own experiences with gender and sexuality. It also teaches children about consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships, and who wouldn't want that?"



RESOURCES:

Teaching Kids About Boundaries:

<https://childmind.org/article/teaching-kids-boundaries-empathy/>

How to Define Boundaries with Your Students—and Stick to Them:

<https://hbsp.harvard.edu/inspiring-minds/how-to-define-boundaries-with-your-students-and-stick-to-them>

How to Listen Less: Setting Boundaries when it Comes to Students Emotional Disclosures:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2015/11/04/setting-boundaries-when-it-comes-students-emotional-disclosures-essay>