

# Gay-Straight Alliance or Queer-Straight Alliance

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## BOYLE STREET EDUCATION CENTRE

### BACKGROUND

This policy should be read in conjunction with Boyle Street Education Centre's policy on *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* and Bill 24: an act to support Gay-Straight Alliance and Bill 28 school amendment act 2017 received Royal assent for December 15, 2017.

This act requires school boards to adopt policies to protect the rights of students to establish Gay-Straight Alliance or Queer-Straight Alliance.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Board or Boyle Street Education Centre authority supports the following sections 16.1(1), 16.1(3), 16.1(3.1), 16.1(4) and 16.1(6) of the School Act.

16.1(1) If one or more students attending a school operated by a board request a staff member employed by the board for support to establish a voluntary student organization, or to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, the principal of the school shall

- (a) immediately grant permission for the establishment of the student organization or the holding of the activity at the school, and
- (b) subject to subsection (4), within a reasonable time from the date that the principal receives the request designate a staff member to serve as the staff liaison to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation, of the student organization or to assist in organizing the activity.

16.1(3) The students may select a respectful and inclusive name for the organization or activity, including the name "gay-straight alliance" or "queer-straight alliance", after consulting with the principal.

- (3.1) For greater certainty, the principal shall not prohibit or discourage students from choosing a name that includes "gay-straight alliance" or "queer-straight alliance".

16.1(4) The principal shall immediately inform the board and the Minister if no staff member is available to serve as a staff liaison referred to in subsection (1), and if so informed, the Board require that all programs, activities, and employment practices be free from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This policy is designed in keeping with these mandates to create a safe learning environment for all students and to ensure that every student has equal access to all school programs and activities. This policy addresses the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students.

16.1(6) The principal is responsible for ensuring that notification, if any, respecting a voluntary student organization or an activity referred to in subsection (1) is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity.

## Guidelines

Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ensures the protection of informational privacy (the right to exercise control over your own personal information) by establishing rules for the collection, use, disclosure and retention of personal information. The *FOIP Act* also contains rules regarding the accuracy of personal information, and gives individuals the right to request a correction to their personal information in the custody or control of a public body.

Disclosure of personal information as stated above in the policy statement may occur only in the specific circumstances outlined in section 40 of the *FOIP Act*. If *section 40* does not provide authority for a disclosure, the principal or the public body cannot disclose the information.

The principal will ensure that notification, if any, is consistent with usual school practice.

Adopted: 15 March, 2018

Revised: 24 May 2018