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Gay-Straight Student Alliances

The Alberta Teachers' Association supports the establishment of gay-straight alliance groups to create awareness and action that promotes the creation of safe learning environments for all students in Alberta high schools. [2005]

Same-Gender Parented Families

The Alberta Teachers' Association respects single-parent, same-sex, biracial, bicultural, blended, extended, foster and traditional nuclear family units and that members of all such families have the right to

1. be free from harassment, discrimination and violence;
2. be treated fairly, equitably and with dignity;
3. self-identification and freedom of expression;
4. have their confidentiality respected; and
5. be valued and affirmed as individuals.

[2006]

Association Workshops That Encourage Equitable Practices

- Building Human Rights Communities
- Dealing with Bullying and Cyberbullying
- Here Comes Everyone: Responding to Diversity
- Respecting Diversity: Focus on Racism and Sexism
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Teaching Controversial Issues

To find out more about sexual orientation and gender identity issues in schools, contact

Andrea Berg, Staff Officer, Professional Development at andrea.berg@ata.ab.ca or 780-447-9423 or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free) or visit www.teachers.ab.ca and go to "Teaching in Alberta" then click "Diversity, Equity and Human Rights"



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Policy Brochure



The Alberta Teachers' Association



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The Alberta Teachers' Association

believes that every child has the right to be taught in an inclusive environment that is safe and caring, respects diversity and the rights of all persons, and provides equitable opportunities for success.

The Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) is committed to fostering understanding and acceptance of sexual minority and gender variant teachers and students, as well as students from same-gender parented families. The policies in this brochure are used to guide the actions of the Association.

Professional Conduct

The teacher teaches in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, disability, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, place of origin, place of residence, socioeconomic background or linguistic background.

Rights & Responsibilities

Teachers have the right to be protected against discrimination on the basis of prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, disability, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, place of origin, place of residence, socioeconomic background or linguistic background and have the responsibility to refrain from practising these forms of discrimination in their professional duties.

School Boards

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alberta Teachers' Association urge the Department of Education to require school boards to develop policy and procedures for dealing with discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, disability, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, place of origin, place of residence, socioeconomic background or linguistic background. [1998/2001/04/07]

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alberta Teachers' Association urge Alberta school boards to develop district policies that specifically address the health and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified students, as well as those who are perceived as such. [2006]

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alberta Teachers' Association urge Alberta school boards to develop district policies that specifically address the health, safety and employment concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified staff, as well as those who are perceived as such. [2006]



Curriculum

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alberta Teachers' Association urge the Department of Education to provide curricula and education resources that prepare students to support and contribute to a society that is open, pluralistic, democratic and free from discrimination or violence based on a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. [2006]

Teacher Preparation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alberta Teachers' Association urge faculties of education in their teacher preparation programs to include curriculum and instructional strategies to help teachers address sexual orientation and gender identity in age-appropriate ways in Alberta classrooms and schools. [2007]

On Discrimination

The Alberta Teachers' Association opposes any injurious discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, disability, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, place of origin, place of residence, socioeconomic background or linguistic background. [1980/84/94/95/98/2002/03]

The Government of Alberta should amend the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited grounds of discrimination. [1995/98/2001/04/06]