

PRIDE WEEK AND 2SLGBTQIA+ FAQs

PRIDE WEEK QUESTIONS:

Why does EIPS mark Pride Week?

Elk Island Public Schools unequivocally supports the rights of all students, including those of minority sexual orientations, gender identities, or gender expressions, to ensure they can learn in a welcoming, discrimination-free environment. Pride Week aims to foster respect, understanding, and belonging by bringing awareness to 2SLGBTQIA+ community, their challenges, and achievements. EIPS values diversity and promotes equality, dignity, and respect for all.

Why is it important to visibly show support to 2SLGBTQIA+ students, families and community members during Pride Week?

2SLGBTQIA+ students, staff and families seek equality, respect, and acceptance. Visible support helps combat discrimination and misinformation, promoting a safer, more inclusive environment. Ensuring schools are welcoming and supportive can help 2SLGBTQIA+ students achieve academic and personal success, reducing negative outcomes. By ensuring school is a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe place for them to learn, grow and thrive, we can give them the opportunity to pursue their academic and career aspirations, contribute to the community in positive ways and avert negative outcomes.

What do schools focus on during Pride Week?

Activities around Pride Week are age appropriate to the grade, and focus on acceptance, inclusiveness, and an anti-bullying environment. Pride Week is about respecting differences, celebrating all children and families, and making everyone feel safe and welcome at school.

Are Pride Week activities monitored or approved?

Any activity suggested by a club in a school is carefully reviewed by school administration to ensure it is age-appropriate, voluntary and promotes inclusivity. Section 35.1 permits the club to hold of activities associated with voluntary student organizations.

Does my child have to take part in Pride Week activities?

Participation in Pride Week activities and events is voluntary, and takes place outside of instructional time.

Are schools teaching human sexuality during Pride Week?

The Division does not discuss sexuality with students outside of government-approved [curriculum](#)—and parents must provide consent for those subjects when the time comes to address it, as per Section 58.1 of the *Education Act*.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Why do schools have GSAs?

Section 35.1 of the Education Act permits the establishment of student organizations, including GSAs, at the request of students. These organizations exist to promote equality and non-discrimination.

What Administrative Procedures and legislation guide EIPS' activities and initiatives around 2SLGBTQIA+ students and staff?

[Administrative Procedure 311](#) emphasizes the Division's responsibility to nurture a discrimination-free environment for all EIPS students and staff, protecting their rights as per the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Alberta Human Rights Act, and the Education Act.

What does the 2SLGBTQIA+ stand for?

2SLGBTQIA+ is an acronym for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the plus reflects the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify.