The Every Teacher Project Recommendations Toolkit

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Description

The 220-page toolkit is based on a substantial study into Canadian teachers' practices and perceptions related to LGBTQ-inclusive education. The study was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), as well as The Manitoba Teachers' Society and The University of Winnipeg. The toolkit is recognized by teachers and teacher organizations in publicly funded schools across Canada.

Salient Points

This Toolkit is an essential guide for teachers, teacher organizations and others wanting to support the development of LGBTQ-inclusive education in schools. It begins with a useful glossary of terms that are used when discussing LGBTQ inclusion. It then includes a series of recommendations for different groups (e.g., government, school districts, teacher training programs, and teacher organizations). Some of the concerns addressed in the recommendations include safety, harassment, confidence in teaching, efficacy, LGBTQ visibility, school level practices, and classroom practices. Many of the recommendations, especially those for teacher organizations, would have relevance for ESL providers (e.g., #6 "Develop a gay-straight alliance…or equivalent for members," and #7 "Develop PD opportunities for members" p.29-32). Each recommendation is followed by a rationale, relevant research, additional resources and a Q&A section.

The document also includes an appendix for those who are new to the subject of LGBTQ-inclusive education, and an appendix for teachers who are facing resistance because of their own LGBTQ identity or allyship. As well, it includes appendices for those wishing to support trans students, and LGBTQ students in indigenous, religious, and/or rural areas.

Questions for Reflection

As you examine this document, consider the following questions:

- Have teachers in your institution received training that helps them foster an inclusive teaching environment? If not, is this something you could request?

- Scan through the recommendations for Teacher Organizations (p.15-42). Does your organization (or do you as an individual) make an attempt to follow any of these recommendations? Are there any recommendations that you think could be applied to your teaching context? What would be your first step working towards that recommendation?

- Read the most relevant appendix on how to support a specific LGBTQ community (e.g., trans students, or LGBTQ learners in rural, indigenous, or religious contexts). How can you make your own teaching context more LGBTQ-inclusive?

- Does your organization provide LGBTQ instructors and/or allies a safe environment to practice inclusive education?

Keywords

LGBTQ-inclusive education, School safety

Reference

Campbell, C. & Taylor, C. (2017). *The Every Teacher Project Recommendations Toolkit.* Winnipeg, MB: The Manitoba Teachers' Society. Retrieved from https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/rise/docs/Every_Teacher_Toolkit_WEB.pdf