



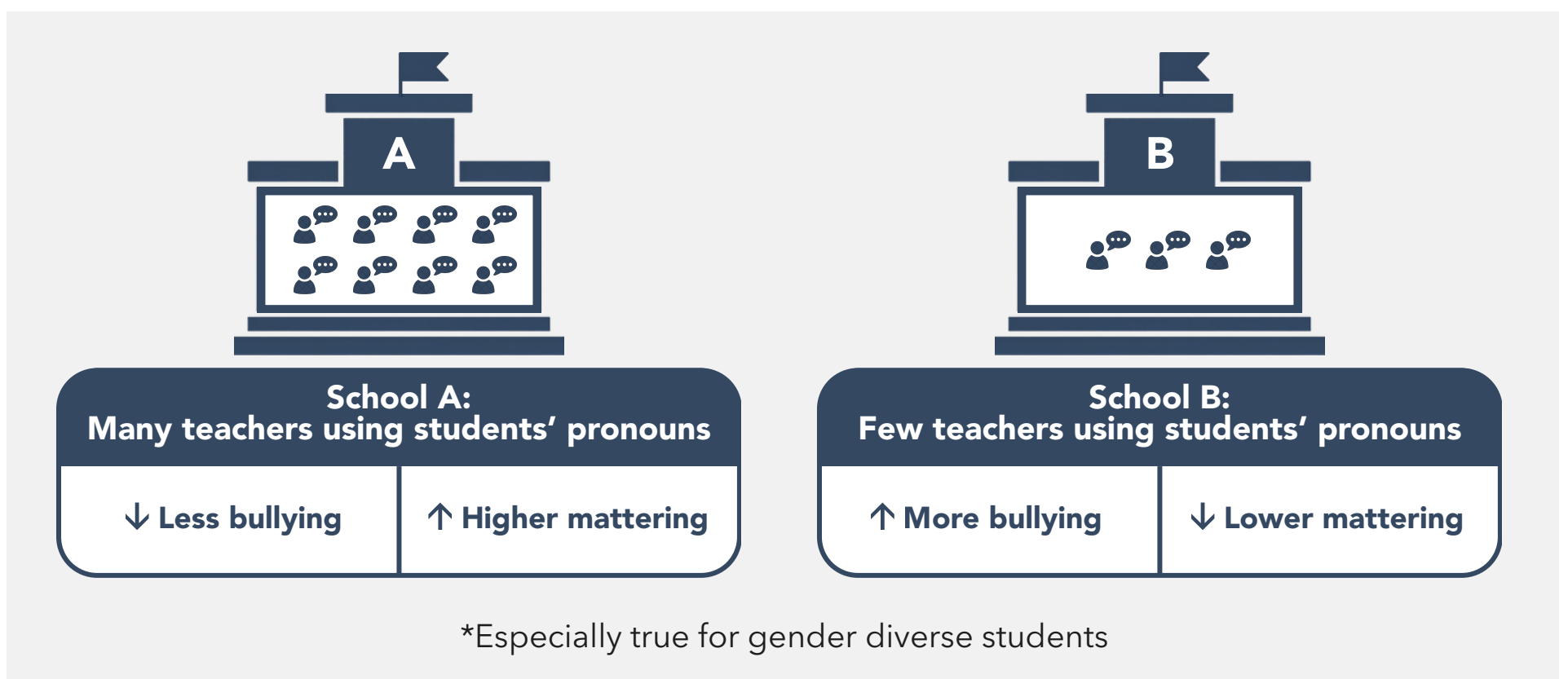
HPRS SNAPSHOT

SUPPORT & AFFIRMATION

When teachers are supportive and affirming, students feel valued and protected. For students who are gender diverse or members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, this sense of safety and mattering is especially important. Teachers who use students' pronouns can be a lifeline for these students, countering the negative effects of any identity-based bullying.

Respecting students' pronouns creates an environment that benefits all students. In the Ontario Health and Peer Relations Study, we found that when students felt their teacher consistently used their pronouns, they were more likely to report feeling like they mattered at school, regardless of their individual gender identity or whether they had experienced bullying, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The impact of teachers using students' pronouns in schools



“Respecting a student's pronouns doesn't take away from others. It sets a standard of fairness that makes every single student in the classroom feel like they truly matter.”

Dr. Kamilla Bonnesen

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Brain and Behaviour Lab, University of Ottawa

How You Can Create a Supportive Classroom Environment

- ☑ Be proactive in sharing your own pronouns with your students.
- ☑ Model positive behaviour by correcting yourself if you slip up – mistakes happen!
- ☑ Teach students how respecting people's pronouns creates a better environment for everyone.

To learn more about the HPRS, visit our website at hprs.ca.