

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Background

Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress that are compatible with the requirements of an academic environment.

A student's appearance or mode of dress will not be permitted to disrupt the educational process for themselves or others, nor will it constitute a threat to health or safety. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance disrupts the educational environment or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student will be required to make modifications.

Procedures

1. All principals will establish a school dress code for students that is consistent with this procedure and will publish the dress code in a manner that will ensure it is familiar to all parents, students and staff members.
2. The following issues are to be addressed when developing school dress codes and must align to the [British Columbia Human Rights Code](#):
 - 1.1. Student health and safety;
 - 1.2. Appropriate dress for participating in specialized programs and events;
 - 1.3. The wearing of clothing, insignias, symbols or adornments that may promote the use of controlled substances, including but not limited to drugs, alcohol or tobacco;
 - 1.4. The wearing of clothing that features offensive or vulgar words, pictures or drawings;
 - 1.5. The wearing of clothing that features phrases and/or pictures of a sexual nature;
 - 1.6. The wearing of clothing, insignias, symbols or adornments that denigrate a person's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, or age;
 - 1.7. The wearing of clothing or insignia that features a group or philosophy that advocates violence or disruption;
 - 1.8. The wearing of clothing or clothing worn in a way that detracts from the teaching/learning process; and,
 - 1.9. The wearing of hats, hoodies or other headwear, other than for religious reasons.
3. Uniforms: The District will consider the approval of a school uniform for a specific school when the following criteria have been met:
 - 3.1. The Superintendent receives a letter from the principal that outlines the consultation process involving the school parents' advisory council (PAC) and leading to the recommendation of a school uniform, as well as a description of the proposed school uniform;
 - 3.2. Evidence that at least eighty percent (80%), with one (1) vote per family, of the school community voted by secret ballot to approve a school uniform;

- 3.3. Evidence of a plan to provide school uniforms to any student who is disadvantaged;
- 3.4. Provisions for exceptions that may be necessary for religious reasons; and,
- 3.5. Provisions for a process for individual families to opt out of a school uniform requirement.

Legal references: *School Act*, ss 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85
 Regulation 265/89
 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), RSBC 1996
 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
 Criminal Code of Canada, RSC 1985
 Copyright Act, RSC 1985

Other references: Administrative procedures 350, 355
 Introduction to British Columbia's Redesigned Curriculum, 2015

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