

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Background

The District recognizes that a student's choice of dress can form an important part of self-identity and that students should be free to dress in a manner of their choosing, subject to the terms of this Administrative Procedure.

Procedures

1. All principals will publish the dress code in a manner that will ensure parents and students are aware of its contents, by September 30th each year.
2. All principals will review the procedures of this dress code with all staff prior to September 30th annually.
3. This administrative procedure will be reviewed at the District level every three years to ensure it remains current.
4. Students must not wear clothing which undermines the District's commitment to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This includes:
 - 4.1. Clothing that promotes the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol;
 - 4.2. Clothing that advocates illegal activity;
 - 4.3. The wearing of clothing, insignias, symbols or adornments that denigrate or promote hatred of a person or persons, including, but not limited to, clothing that denigrates or promotes hate based on 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;
 - 4.4. Clothing which contains profanity, pornography or obscene images.
5. Student clothing must conform to health or safety requirements, including requirements arising from participation in specialized programs and events.
6. Other than for religious purposes, health and safety requirements, or where required to accommodate a disability, students must not wear clothing which obscures their face.
7. Staff shall respond to Student Dress Code violations in a manner that:
 - 7.1. Is discreet, respectful and clearly references the specifics of the dress code concern;
 - 7.2. Does not require the student to wear clothing provided by the school and instead requires the student to wear additional clothing of their own to obscure the violating dress choice;
 - 7.3. Is consultative with the school administration prior to addressing a dress code concern with a student.
 - 7.4. Includes school administration contacting parents and or guardians of any student that has violated this Administrative Procedure.
8. The District will consider the approval of a school uniform for a specific school when the following criteria have been met:

- 8.1. 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;
- 8.2. 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;
- 8.3. Evidence of a plan to provide school uniforms to any student who is disadvantaged;
- 8.4. Provisions for exceptions that may be necessary for religious reasons; and,
- 8.5. 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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