



STUDENT DRESS CODES

Responsibility: *Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being*

Legal References: *Regulation 768/00*

Related References: *Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Human Rights Code
Policy 1003 – School Councils*

Revisions: *March 2016*

Reviewed: *March 2016*

1. Preamble

The following procedure provides guidelines and expectations pertaining to the steps that must be followed in order to implement a formal dress code.

2. Procedure

Appropriate Dress Expectations

2.1 On a yearly basis, the principal will review the current appropriate dress expectations for students with School Council. Changes may be made to these expectations by the principal in consultation with School Council. This is a consultative process that, in a few cases, may ultimately require the principal to make a decision.

3. Formal Dress Code

If a majority of parents/guardians/adult students wish to consider implementing a formal dress code, the School Council on behalf of the parents/guardians/adult students must follow the outlined procedure.

3.1 Step One: Initial Informal Discussion

3.1.1 When the issue of a formal dress code is identified, the Council must determine if there is significant support for changing the current appropriate dress expectations for students. The Council may use: informal surveys, discussions with some parents, discussions with some students especially those in grades 7 to Grade 12, focus groups, and/or other relatively simple methods.

3.1.2 After collecting this information, the Council will make a determination. If the determination shows that there appears to be significant support, the process moves to Step Two.

3.2 Step Two: Formal Discussion

3.2.1 The School Council must begin a formal consultative process. This step has two purposes:

- To determine that the level of support is significant enough to justify moving to Step Three;
- To encourage discussion about the issue among parents, students, staff, and other affected individuals.

3.2.2 School Councils must, as part of the process:

- Develop a rationale for the proposed formal dress code;
- Develop a description of the proposed formal dress code;

- Ensure that the proposed dress code is consistent with the Charter of Rights and the Human Rights Code;
 - Determine the cost of the proposed dress code;
 - Consider the affordability of the proposal;
 - Develop a proposed timeline for implementation;
- 3.2.3 Consider any potential safety concerns about the proposal;
- Suggest a statement of expectations regarding student compliance with the proposed formal dress code.
- 3.2.4 The School Council must:
- Have at least one consultation meeting with parents;
 - Have at least one consultation meeting with intermediate and senior students.
- 3.2.5 After collecting the information, the School Council will make a determination. If the School Council believes there is significant support, the process moves to Step Three. The issue of a formal dress code may not be reviewed again that school year.
- 3.3 Step Three: Voting for a Formal Dress Code
- 3.3.1 School Councils, acting on behalf of the parents/guardians/adult students of the school, must conduct a vote to implement a formal dress code. Implementing a formal dress code will require considerable time and effort on the part of many people. To ensure there are relatively large numbers of parents/guardians/adult students supporting the proposal, sixty-six percent (66%) of eligible parents/guardians/adult students must vote in favour of the changes.
- 3.3.2 Each student in the school generates one vote. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/adult student to determine who the eligible person will be who will cast the vote.
- 3.3.3 The ballot must contain the following information:
- A description of the proposed formal dress code;
 - The cost;
 - The start date for implementation;
 - The expectation for student compliance.
- 3.3.4 If the 66% vote is achieved, the changes are implemented. If the dress code involves a cost as determined in step two, the dress code cannot be changed for five years. Minor modifications may occur after one year. If there is no cost, the dress code may be reviewed after one year.
- 3.3.5 If the 66% majority is not achieved, no further vote can occur for three years. In a grade 7/8 school, no further vote can occur for two years.