

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES	
<i>Administrative Procedure Section</i> STUDENTS	<i>Policy Number</i> 805
<i>Administrative Procedure Number</i> AP-S-805	<i>Page</i> 1 of 5

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE TITLE

Dress Code – Students

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

- 1.1 The principal, in conjunction with the Catholic School Council, will initiate a new school dress code or may activate changes to the existing school dress code through a motion at a Catholic School Council meeting. Upon passing of the motion, the principal will then develop a plan for school-level implementation of the Board's school dress code policy or changes thereof and present it to the Catholic School Council for its consideration. The plan may include the establishment of a dress code sub-committee.
- 1.2 Upon review and acceptance of any changes by the Catholic School Council/Dress Code Sub-committee, comprehensive consultation will be undertaken with parents/guardians, staff, and students to establish directions in developing or continuing the school plan for the implementation of the school dress code policy, consistent with Board policy.
- 1.3 At the conclusion of the comprehensive process, a ballot vote of the school parents will be conducted to ratify the new or modified Dress Code. Three conditions must be met for the dress code to be ratified:
 - (a) Each family in the school receives a ballot. (Each family in the school community will be eligible to vote and each family will receive ONE ballot regardless of the number of children registered in that school.) (Only ballots signed by parents or students 18 years of age or older will be accepted.)
 - (b) A minimum participation rate will be determined by the principal in consultation with the Catholic School Council. (This participation rate threshold will consider the definition of a majority, the importance of this matter for the entire school community, and the usual participation rates for elections and survey responses.)

- (c) A majority of the total number of votes cast must be in favour of the school dress code for it to pass.
- 1.4 It is understood that the existing dress code will be maintained until a change is ratified and sufficient time is in place to implement changes as determined by the school principal and Catholic School Council in consultation with the Manager of Purchasing, Planning and Facilities Administration and the official Board supplier.
 - 1.5 The Board acknowledges that the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms will be reflected in the dress code.
 - 1.6 The principal will develop consequences for non-compliance by students of the school's policy on student dress. These consequences may include a suspension for a fixed period of one to twenty days.
 - 1.7 The Board understands that the financial considerations of dress codes must be taken into account by the Catholic School Councils when setting their dress code parameters, and that the items are affordable to the members of the school community. No student will be denied access to school as a result of inability to afford appropriate clothing required by a school dress code.
 - 1.8 Purchasing of standardized clothing will follow Purchasing Department guidelines and Board policy.
 - 1.9 All Board approved suppliers of school uniforms will be subject to the Fair Trade Purchasing for Student Clothing Policy.
 - 1.10 Only school logos, Board logos, and school names will be permitted on school uniforms. Advertisements of any kind on school uniforms are prohibited and are deemed inappropriate.
 - 1.11 The school dress code will be communicated annually to the school community in one or more of the following publications: the School Code of Conduct, the School Parent Handbook, the School Agenda Book, or the September newsletter, and be permanently displayed in the school profile on the Board's website.
 - 1.12 Each school will review its dress code once every four years.
 - 1.13 Administration has the flexibility to approve students wearing spirit wear on special occasions.

- 1.14 If a clothing item is discontinued by the supplier and an equivalent replacement is provided by the supplier in its place, this item may be substituted as part of the dress code and the school dress code will be amended accordingly.

If no clothing item is provided by the supplier as an equivalent substitution for the discontinued item, the item shall be removed from the school dress code.

- 1.15 Alterations to dress code clothing provided by the supplier which impact the decency of the clothing item are considered to have violated the dress code.

2.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 APPROPRIATE DRESS

Appropriate dress is standard, clean and neat at all times – standards of acceptable dress for the school environment. These include acceptable standards for physical education, technology courses, and general safety throughout the school as determined by the principal (e.g.: All students must wear the appropriate footwear for each activity and shoes at all times. It is recommended that students' necklaces and neckwear should be constructed of breakaway material.). Appropriate dress may or may not mean a school dress code depending on what is decided at each school. Students are expected to dress appropriately on the way to and from school, during school hours, and while participating in Co-operative Education and Board-approved field trips. All secondary schools have a dress code. The elementary school dress code is articulated in each school's agenda book.

2.2 DRESS CODE

Dress code is defined as the standard of student dress agreed upon by the school community and in accordance with the Education Act and Regulations. School agenda books will contain specific examples for reference. Dress code shall include the minimum standards of acceptable dress and grooming required by all students as determined by the principal (e.g. hair styles, length of shirts, pants, skirts and kilts).

2.3 INAPPROPRIATE

Inappropriate is defined as logos, sayings, slogans, gang affiliation, and pictures that address or display sexual content, substance abuse, violence, profanity, racial or gender discrimination, or discrimination of any kind, or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group. Clothing must completely cover the abdomen and back and not be transparent. Footwear must be worn at all times.

2.4 MANDATORY COMPLIANCE

Mandatory compliance is defined as the monitoring enforcement and consequences applied to all students to ensure compliance.

2.5 VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

Voluntary compliance is defined as an acceptance of the school uniform without the requirement for monitoring, enforcement, or consequences for non-compliance.

2.6 MAJORITY

A majority is defined as 51% or greater.

3.0 REFERENCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Education Act Regulation 298 (Requirements for Pupils) S.23 (1)(f)
Safe Schools Act, 2000. Education Act S.302 (5)
Health and Safety Regulations
Human Rights Code
Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Ontario Regulation 612, School Councils
Ontario Regulation 613

4.0 RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

AP-FIN-202, Fair Trade Purchasing for Student Clothing
AP-FIN-204, Purchasing
AP-CSC-601, Catholic School Councils
AP-PRC-706, Valuing Diversity
AP-S-801, Suspension of a Student

AP-S-802, Safe Schools – Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive
Student Behaviour
AP-S-804, School Codes of Conduct

5.0 RELATED FORMS**6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE REVIEW DATE**

June 2015

7.0 APPROVED BY BOARD

June 22, 2010

8.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

June 22, 2010

9.0 REVIEW BY

Superintendent of Schools and Learning Support Services

10.0 LAST REVISION DATE