



# Halton District School Board

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

5000-10e

## POLICY STATEMENT

### STUDENT DRESS CODE AND SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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#### PURPOSE

This policy is intended to promote a positive learning environment in schools consistent with the Mission and Guiding Principles of The Halton District School Board and to ensure the schools of the Halton District School Board are safe, respectful places for learning and teaching. This policy is in compliance with the Safe Schools Act 2000 – S. 302 (5)

It is recognized that most schools have existing dress codes for students that can serve as excellent models.

#### PRINCIPLES

In developing or reviewing the school dress code for students, each school shall base the code on the following principles:

- Safety Civility and Respect
- Self-Worth and Self-Discipline
- Cleanliness and Hygiene
- Appropriateness to the Learning Environment
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#### PART I – SCHOOL DRESS CODES

Each school, through their school councils and in consultation with parents and staff, shall establish a school dress code for students that:

- is in accordance with Safe Schools Act 2000 section 302-5
- is in accordance with the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- is supported by a majority of parents (more than 50% of the families responding to a request for support communicated to all families with students in attendance)
- includes principles on which the policy is based and is consistent with the Mission and Guiding Principles of The Halton District School Board
- states that compliance is mandatory for all students
- shall include specific expectations regarding inappropriate apparel
- includes an effective date and a process for review at least every 5 years in consultation with staff, students and parents
- is published and distributed annually



*The Halton District School Board is committed to providing the highest quality education which prepares our students for success as responsible, participating citizens of the global community.*



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## **PART II - SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Each school may, through their school councils and in consultation with parents and staff, establish a school uniform policy that:

- is the result of a process initiated by the written request of a minimum of 20% of the families with students enrolled at the school (survey, letters etc.)
- is supported by a 75% majority of families determined to be eligible to vote
- addresses the issue of affordability
- is consistent with the school dress code
- is premised on voluntary compliance
- clearly defines which families are eligible to vote in consideration of both graduating students and families new to the school
- (vi) permits only the school logo and school name to be displayed on a school uniform
- includes an effective date and process for review at least every 5 years in consultation with staff, students and parents

In schools where a process to consider a school uniform has been initiated, the Principal, in consultation with the school council, shall develop and share with the appropriate Superintendent, an action plan that includes:

- a committee to manage the process that includes parents, school personnel and students (if appropriate)
- the data related to the level of interest for a school uniform
- a process for consultation with the school community
- a communication plan
- procedures for establishing the 75% majority required that address part (vi) above and includes the wording of the question to be put to a vote
- a strategy to deal with affordability
- a review and monitoring process
- a process for the acquisition of apparel, if necessary

### **REVIEW:**

This policy is to be reviewed every 5 years and the review process shall include parents, students and school personnel.





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## **DEFINITIONS:**

Dress Code – the standard of student dress established by the school community and is consistent with this policy

School Uniform - any specifically prescribed apparel for pupils to wear while in attendance at school as determined by the school community and is consistent with this policy.

### Inappropriate Dress

- 1) refers to logos, sayings and pictures that address or display:
  - a) sexual content
  - b) substance abuse
  - c) race or gender discrimination
  - d) profanity
  - e) violence
  - f) or other content deemed inappropriate for the school environment in the judgement of the Principal
  
- 2) refers to a style of dress, grooming, accessory or particular item of clothing that is deemed unsuitable for the school environment in the judgement of the Principal.

Voluntary Compliance – an acceptance of the school uniform without the requirement for monitoring, enforcement, or consequences for non-compliance.

Safety – refers to any style of dress, grooming or accessory that, in the judgement of the Principal, endangers the pupil or others in the school environment.

In addition, for pupil participation in technical, laboratory and physical education programs, special considerations for dressing safely are required.

Civility – refers to courtesy or an act of expression or politeness.

