
POLICY P.104.SCO

TITLE: STUDENT DRESS CODE

Date issued: 24 August 2001

Revised: 08 March 2004

Authorization: Board 4 July 2001

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish expectations for appropriate student dress within the schools of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, and to provide direction for the development, implementation and review of school dress codes.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

In this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions apply:

- 2.1 **Student dress code** is interpreted to mean the expectations within a particular school with respect to appropriate student dress to be worn in school or at school-related events. It may or may not include a school uniform as defined in section 2.3 of this policy.
- 2.2 **A majority of parents** is interpreted to mean 85 per cent or more of the families of students currently registered at a school, on the basis of one parent, or a student having reached the age of majority, vote per family.
- 2.3 **Uniform** is interpreted to mean specific items of clothing which are required for student dress within a particular school and/or at school related events off school premises. It may or may not include items of clothing which contain the school logo or colours or which must be purchased from Board-approved suppliers.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 This student dress policy is based on the expectation that schools shall be safe and respectful learning environments.
- 3.2 In furtherance of this expectation and in support of appropriate conduct within schools as set out in Policy P.032.SCO: Conduct of Persons in Schools, the following principles shall govern standards of student dress in the schools of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board:
 - (a) respect for learning;
 - (b) decency;
 - (c) cleanliness;
 - (d) respect for the rights and dignity of others;
 - (e) safety of persons and property; and
 - (f) promotion of a drug and alcohol-free environment.

3.3 Requirements for a Student Dress Code

- (a) Each school's student dress code shall include the following elements:
 - (i) statement of purpose;
 - (ii) standards of dress for students;
 - (iii) consequences for non-compliance.
- (b) The following must be included as inappropriate student dress:
 - (i) sexually explicit or revealing dress;
 - (ii) dress with wording or graphics that is racist, sexist, profane or demeaning to another person;
 - (iii) dress with wording or graphics that advocates violence;
 - (iv) dress with wording or graphics that advocates the consumption of alcohol or illicit drugs; and
 - (v) dress that is recognized by the OCDSB Safe Schools Committee to be associated with gang membership.
- (c) Other dress may be identified in a school student dress code as inappropriate, either generally or in specific circumstances, if the prohibition is consistent with the principles and standards set out in Board Policy P.104.SCO and Board Procedure PR.628.SCO: Student Dress Code.

3.4 School student dress codes shall be developed, monitored and reviewed in consultation and collaboration with the school council, parents, students and staff.

4.0 **SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**

- 4.1 The school principal shall ensure that a school dress code governing appropriate dress in the school is established, and shall consult the school council and students, through the student council where one exists, with respect to this code and its implementation.
- 4.2 In establishing and reviewing the school dress code, the principal and school council shall address the issue of affordability.
- 4.3 The school student dress code shall:
 - (a) if it includes a student uniform dress code, have the approval of a majority, as defined in section 2.2 of this policy, of the parents of students currently attending the school;
 - (b) be consistent with the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

- (c) clearly set out expectations for student compliance and the consequences of non-compliance.

4.4 The principal, in co-operation with the school council, shall conduct a review of the school student dress code annually.

5.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Education Act, 2000, Section 302(5)

Memorandum from the Minister of Education, 12 February 2001.

Ontario Schools *Code of Conduct*, 2000

Board Policy P.014.SCO: School Councils

Board Policy P.032.SCO: Conduct of Persons in Schools

Board Procedure PR.628.SCO: Student Dress Code

Board Procedure PR.521.SCO: Schools