



**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ONTARIO NORTH EAST**

Policy No. 2.1.14

Section: School Related Operations

Related References:

Appendices:

Approved: January 22, 2002

Revised: February 19, 2012

Review Date:

TITLE: Appropriate Dress

1.0 Rationale:

District School Board Ontario North East recognizes the need for safe and respectful learning and teaching environments.

The Board recognizes its obligation prescribed by the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedom.

They recognize that dress will influence the opinion others have of our students, and schools.

2.0 Definitions:

“eligible family”: families with students presently enrolled in the school.

3.0 Policy:

DSB Ontario North East supports schools in their expectations of appropriate student dress by establishing the following guidelines by which principals and school councils can review expectations regularly and communicate them to parents and students on an annual basis.

PROCEDURES:

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

All parents will receive a copy of the school's dress code annually for their information.

School Councils and Principals will review the school dress code regularly and consider any changes suggested.

If a significant number of parents indicate a wish to make major changes to the current dress code, including the implementation of a school uniform, the Operational Procedures will be applied.

To finalize a significant change in the dress code to include a more formal dress code or uniform, a decision making process will be developed to demonstrate that:

- a. there is a minimum support of 75% of "eligible families" of students enrolled in the school for the proposed change; and,
- b. in the case of joint custody arrangements, the definition of "eligible families" will be left to the discretion of the principal; and,
- c. there is a minimum support of 75% of the intermediate and senior students at the secondary level.

If the minimum level of support is reached, the new school policy is implemented.

Students will be expected to comply with a school's dress code. Appropriate sanctions, as determined by the principal, will be applied as required, if students do not comply.

The appropriate Regional Superintendent of Schools will be kept informed throughout the process if a significant change is being considered

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1. Through communication with parents, students, and staff, School Councils will determine if there is significant interest in changes to the existing school dress code including an interest in implementing a more formal dress code or a school uniform.
2. At the secondary level, intermediate and senior students must be part of the consultation and voting process.
3. It is recommended that at least 51% of the parents and the intermediate and senior students indicate a minimum interest before proceeding with the next stage of information gathering and planning.
4. A more formal dress code could include such things as the wearing of dress pants or solid colored tops only with no logos, etc.

5. A school uniform would be a limited and specific set of alternative pieces of clothing for students to wear.
6. It is recommended that a survey be attached to the actual dress code sent home to determine the interest for change.
7. Parents will be informed that if there is sufficient interest in changing the dress code significantly, the School Council is required to look into the matter further and report their findings.
8. Parents will be assured that a final show of support will be required before a proposed change would be implemented in the school.
9. If there is sufficient interest, a process must be followed which ensures that consideration is given to the following:
 - a) affordability/availability for families,
 - b) consistency with the Charter of Rights and the Human Rights Code,
 - c) the expectations for student compliance and the role of staff to monitor compliance,
 - d) the implementation timeframe,
 - e) issues of relevance to the school's administrators,
 - f) the maximum involvement of students and their parents, e.g. In the selection of a school uniform,
 - g) clear communications with parents, students and staff throughout the process,
 - h) the process to ensure compliance with the Board's Administrative Regulations.
10. If there is not sufficient interest, no further action will be taken during the school year.

It should be noted that the school dress codes will require regular review outside of this policy to ensure compliance with the Board's Code of Conduct and its expectations.