

# Toronto District School Board

Policy P042

Title: **APPROPRIATE DRESS**

Adopted: April 10, 2002

Revised: **August 26, 2009**

Reviewed: March 2012

## 1.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish requirements and permissions for appropriate dress codes in schools

## 2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

Deputy Director, Academic Services

## 3.0 DEFINITIONS

*Dress Code* is the appropriate dress policy established by each school in consultation with parents through their school councils, and may include a school uniform.

*Inappropriate Dress* refers to a standard of attire which does not meet the school community standards of decency and shall include language and/or representations on attire that indicates gang affiliation, that depicts violence, profanity, racial or gender discrimination or discrimination of any kind whatsoever, or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group.

*Parent* refers to an individual who is on record with the school as a parent or legal guardian of a student at the school.

*School Uniform* refers to any common standard of attire with respect to colour and design which students are required to wear at school.

## 4.0 POLICY

### 4.1. General

An appropriate school dress policy, supported by a majority of parents, should lead to safer and more respectful learning and teaching environments. Each school, in consultation with its school council, is free to develop a dress policy that is appropriate for that school. Such dress policies shall be based on principles such as respect, safety and diversity. In keeping with the Board's Policy B.03: Equity Foundation, any school dress policy must integrate the principles of fairness, equity and inclusion.

#### 4.2. School Dress Codes

- (a) Every school must establish a Dress Code.
- (b) Each Dress Code must include a statement of principles upon which it is based.
- (c) It is expected that, subject to the discretion of the principal to permit exceptions regarding compliance in appropriate circumstances, every student in the school will comply with the Dress Code.
- (d) School Dress Codes must be consistent with both the spirit and letter of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. For instance, Dress Codes must be flexible enough to provide accommodation for religious dress. All Dress Codes must include a provision which permits the principal to exercise the discretion to allow exceptions to the school Dress Code.
- (e) Each Dress Code shall include a description of Inappropriate Dress. Such a description shall include attire that is defined by this policy as Inappropriate Dress and may include any other attire or dress that is considered inappropriate in specific schools.
- (f) A Dress Code may include a School Uniform.
- (g) Dress Codes shall include a provision respecting periodic review and monitoring. The periodic review shall include a process for consultation with students, teachers, staff, volunteers working in the schools, parents and guardians, school councils and the public.

#### 4.3. School Uniforms

- (a) Schools shall be permitted, after consultation with parents/guardians, school councils, and students, to implement a dress policy that is appropriate for the school.
- (b) Before adopting a school uniform policy, a formal vote of parents and/or guardians of children in the school shall be taken as follows:
  - (i) the vote must have a participation rate of 80 percent of the eligible voters with a 70 percent approval rate by the participating voters to implement a uniform policy;
  - (ii) eligible voters shall be one parent/guardian vote for each student in the school.
- (c) Uniform policies adopted by schools shall remain in place for a minimum of three years.
- (d) To rescind a uniform policy, a vote, as shown in section 4.3 (b), shall be taken.
- (e) There will be one vote for each student who is expected to be at the school in the following year (this will exclude those students who are expected to

graduate from the school, and include new students who are registered at the school), such vote to be cast by a parent or guardian of the student

## **5.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**

The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

## **6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

Operational Procedure PR.596: Appropriate Dress