

POLICY

The Upper Grand District School Board believes that learning and teaching should occur in a safe and respectful environment. The Board recognizes that each school operates within a unique environment often with different community expectations and needs. The Board believes that the parents within each school should determine a dress code for students in attendance. It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to support all schools in their expectations of Appropriate Dress.

Administrative Detail

1. It is the responsibility of the Superintendents of Education to implement this policy.
2. The procedural details of this policy shall be determined by individual School Councils with the Principal.
3. The definitions of the terms used in this policy are contained in it.
4. Principals, in consultation with School Councils, parents, students, staffs, and volunteers, as appropriate, will review the school dress code every three years, and communicate it to parents and students on an annual basis, and/or whenever a student registers at the school.
5. The Upper Grand District School Board will review this policy at least every three years.
6. This policy shall operate in conjunction with policy # 503 Code of Conduct.

A. DEFINITION OF TERMS1. Appropriate Dress

Appropriate Dress shall refer to student attire that is modest, free of symbols of hate, gang membership, or images which portray violence, death, abuse, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, obscene words, political, racial, or sexual statements.

2. School Dress Code

Dress code implies a range of approved apparel and/or general dress protocols that are deemed to be appropriate dress for students.

3. School Uniform

A school uniform shall consist of a series of specific items of common dress that are to be worn by all students.

4. Eligible Families

Eligible families shall be families with children registered at the school.

B. SCHOOL DRESS CODES

1. Principals and School Councils, in consultation with students, staff and parents will develop a School Dress Code (see definitions) which will, at a minimum, be consistent with the definition of Appropriate Dress in this policy.

2. School dress codes may include other dress components such as individual items of attire identified as appropriate or inappropriate generally or specifically (for example, the wearing of hats/caps).

3. A school dress code may be a school uniform as defined in this policy.

4. In developing a school dress code, Principals and School Councils shall consider the following:

- a) the purpose of the dress code,
- b) standards of dress for students,

- c) affordability for families,
- d) transience of families,
- e) consistency with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Human Rights Code (for example, with respect to disabilities and religious beliefs),
- f) expectations for student compliance,
- g) consistent enforcement by staff,
- h) implementation time frames,
- i) the level of support among intermediate and senior students,
- j) implications for staff (administration and Principal to consider),
- k) a process for consultation with parents (see Section C), and
- l) consideration of the definition of “eligible families” to reflect the situation of the school and its community.

C. DEVELOPING A SCHOOL DRESS CODE**1. Determining the Dress Code**

In developing a school dress code, or in determining the need for changes to the current dress code, the School Council and the Principal shall consider the views and interests and seek input from the school community (parents, students, staff and others), as appropriate. Methods used may include: surveys, discussions, focus groups, information nights, and questionnaires. Sample questions may include:

- a) What should be included in our school dress code?
- b) Are you satisfied with the current dress code?
- c) Do you want to consider a school uniform dress code?

2. Insufficient Interest

If there is insufficient interest from the school community in making changes to the current dress code, the School Council will communicate the results to the school community. Methods of informing the school community of the actions of the School Council may include: publication of the dress code in the school newsletter, inclusion of the dress code in the School Code of Conduct, posting the dress code in an accessible place in the school.

3. Sufficient Interest in Changing the Current Dress Code

If there is sufficient interest in implementing revisions or changes to the current dress code, the School Council will revise the dress code in accordance with the input received, and the considerations listed in this policy. The School Council will share the proposed dress code with the school community, and the revised dress code will be implemented.

If changes to the dress code are significant, the School Council may consider developing a process for decision-making based on the approval of a majority of “eligible families” as defined in this policy and outlined below (see Section 4).

4. Interest in a School Uniform Dress Code

If the dress code includes a school uniform, the School Council will develop a decision-making process based on the approval of a majority of “eligible families” as defined in this policy, that will demonstrate:

- a) a minimum support for the dress code by 66% of eligible families of students enrolled in the school determined through a ballot/survey;
- b) in such a ballot/survey process, a ballot not returned shall be considered a “no” vote;
- c) a Principal and School Council may, in the interests of the school community, determine if “eligible families” will be interpreted on the basis of one parent vote per family, and if students who have reached the age of majority will be entitled to one vote;
- d) if the minimum standard is reached the dress code is implemented as proposed, and communicated to the school community.