

Status:	Active
Effective:	June 2021
Revision Date:	June 2025
Review Date:	June 2029
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Education, Safe Schools

Intended Purpose

The Halton District School Board is committed to addressing structural and systemic barriers to support student success and achievement by upholding Indigenous Rights and Human Rights to reduce achievement gaps by continuing to provide safe and inclusive learning environments that promote success for all students and staff recognizing intersecting identities, diverse experiences, and varying socioeconomic circumstances.

Procedure

1. Part 1 - Student Attire

Student Attire must be presented in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes. The HDSB believes students have a right to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias, discrimination, hate and harassment, and that students have a right to respectfully express their individuality.

HDSB values and beliefs:

- Students have the right to express themselves at school without fear of disrespectful remarks, discipline, body shaming, bias, discrimination, or harassment
- Individuals are responsible for managing their own personal biases, behaviours and or perspectives/opinions related to others' choice of clothing and/or self-expression
- We uphold students' rights based on their race, age, ability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, creed, socio-economic circumstances, or body type/size
- Student attire enforcement must not interfere with, limit, or impact school attendance or sense of inclusion

- Schools must maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is required based on subject-specific safety guidelines (e.g., physical education, science, technology)
- Student Attire standards must prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that display (but are not limited to) the following: images, logos or language that demean or portray ethnic prejudice, stereotypes, racism, sexism, vulgarity, violence, obscenities, profanity, hate speech, sexually explicit images/pornography, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia, illegal conduct or activities
- Student Attire standards must prevent students from exposing nipples and genitals

Staff responsibility:

- School staff need to be able to explain the student attire standards and address student attire infractions using body-positive language, upholding Indigenous Rights and Human Rights.

Principal responsibility:

- Student Attire standards must be reviewed annually with the school council, staff and students.
- Student Attire standards must be posted to the school website and shared annually with all members of the school community.

2. Part 2 - School Uniforms

In accordance with School Council Regulations (Reg 612/00 s19(1)), each school may, through their school councils and in consultation with parents/guardians, students 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 HDSB Student Attire Policy
- 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
- 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/guardians, 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 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

Cross-Reference:

Legislation

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Ontario Human Rights Code

Ministry Policy & Program Memoranda

Education Act, Reg. 612/00 s19(1)

Safe Schools Act 2000 – S. 302 (5)

School Council Regulations (Reg. 612/00, s. 19(1))

Board Policies, Procedures & Protocols

Student Attire Policy

Safe and Accepting Schools Policy

Equity Inclusive Education Policy

Indigenous Education Policy

Revision History

- June 2025 - updated to reflect changes in Student Attire Policy