

BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District #33 (Chilliwack)

534

POLICY

Student Dress Guidelines

The Board of Education recognizes that fostering inclusivity and respect for others is critical to creating safe and positive learning environments in our schools for all students. Further, dress guidelines strike a balance between individual expression and the need for students to attend school in clothing that allows them to fully and safely participate in all activities. Each school may establish its own student dress guidelines in consultation with parents, staff and students. These guidelines will:

1. Address the need for inclusivity and gender neutrality.
2. Focus on safety rather than modesty.
3. Be accessible to parents, staff and students.
4. Be constructive rather than punitive so that correction or discipline is not required.

Staff members have a responsibility to assist students in understanding and abiding by the dress guidelines; if a student comes to school dressed in clothing that is not appropriate for the day's activities, this should be dealt with in a way that does not cause shame or loss of learning time. Parents have a responsibility to send their children to school in clothes that allow them to learn and/or play. Students have a responsibility to dress in clothing that meets health and safety standards for all intended activities.

Student Dress Code

Clothing should be suitable for a school learning environment. Clothing and footwear should be comfortable and appropriate for students to participate safely in all school activities including physical education, science, cooking, and shops. Clothing should demonstrate a respect for the school community and the B.C. Human Rights Code. For example, articles of clothing that promote direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to alcohol, drugs, gang culture, sex, weapons, violence, or profanity will not be permitted. Clothing may not encourage sexism, racism, homophobia, or discrimination regarding gender identity, sexual preference, race, religion, or origin. Clothing fabric must cover private parts, and not be transparent in those areas. Any person dressed in an inappropriate manner, will be advised personally and discretely, and given an opportunity to meet the school dress code.