



## **Annapolis Valley Regional School Board**

### **Administrative Procedure – AP 402.13**

## **Student Dress Code**

**Department: Programs and Services**

**Section: Programs**

- 1.0 The Principal, or designate, shall be responsible to communicate annually, in writing, the school's student dress code to students/families, school staff, and the school community.
  - 1.1 Any revisions made to the school's dress code during the school year shall also be communicated to all the above at the time that the revisions are made.
- 2.0 Students are expected at all times to dress in a manner that is appropriate, clean, and tidy.
  - 2.1 It is reasonable for schools to require that students give evidence of respect for each other, the school staff, and their school by having students
    - ? maintain good habits of personal hygiene and grooming
    - ? dress in a way that does not cause others embarrassment or discomfort.
- 3.0 The Board requires Principals and school staffs to determine what is appropriate apparel for students at the elementary level, the middle/junior high level, and senior high level
  - 3.1 The AVRSB supports schools, school administrators, teachers, and other staff in their requirement that students dress appropriately.
- 4.0 A student's dress and appearance shall be safe, and appropriate for the time, place, and occasion, and should not, in the opinion of the school's staff, disrupt or interfere with the educational environment. This includes school events such as dances, sporting events, or any events where the student is representing the school/school board.
  - 4.1 The Board acknowledges that there may be certain types of attire that are regarded as acceptable in situations outside of school but which are not suitable in a school setting in which students are attempting to concentrate on their school work, learning, and achievement.
  - 4.2 The Board acknowledges that adolescence is a time of rapid physical growth and developing sexual awareness. Schools are intended to provide an environment for teaching and learning. Consequently, the Board stipulates, without prejudice, that
    - 4.2.1 clothing that is overly revealing can, in fact, disrupt or interfere with the educational environment
    - 4.2.2 schools are required to clarify as clearly as possible what is appropriate and inappropriate in school environments, and schools are to communicate what is appropriate or inappropriate to students/families and members of the school community

- 4.2.3 dress that is appropriate in the school environment is that which covers the body in a manner that is congruent with the age and stage of the student and the setting. For example, during physical education class or team practices, males and females may wear shorts and T-shirts, or other loose-fitting attire approved by the instructor or coach and suitable for exercising. In other educational settings, adolescent males and females will wear clothing that covers the body to a reasonable extent to support an environment in which teaching and learning are taking place.
- 4.3 Inappropriate attire is judged to be any attire which is disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene, promotes or incites discrimination, or which, because of the setting (for example, in certain laboratory situations) endangers the health and safety of oneself or others
- 4.3.1 Examples of dress, appearance, or adornment that schools must prohibit include, but are not limited to:
- clothes with holes in inappropriate places
  - ? exposed undergarments
  - ? excessively tight or short garments
  - ? shirts that expose the mid-riff
  - ? strapless shirts or tops that expose much of the upper chest or back
  - ? any attire with messages or illustrations that are lewd, profane, or vulgar or that advertise any products or services which are illegal or not permitted by law to minors
  - ? “see-through” clothing
  - ? any adornment or clothing (such as chains or spikes) that could reasonably be perceived as, or used as, a weapon
  - ? any attire containing symbols, styles or messages, which promote or may incite hatred, intolerance, discrimination, violence, or intimidation
- 4.3.2 compliance with AVRSB BP/AP 102.1 RCH – Foundations Statements is required at all times.
- 5.0 Students who do not comply with the school dress code may be directed to return home and change their attire before returning to school or may be directed to wear a school-provided T-shirt until end-of-day dismissal.
- 5.1 Repeated non-compliance of the dress code will be treated as a disciplinary issue and be considered disruptive behaviour under the AVRSB BP/AP 402.7 – Student Code of Behaviour.
- 6.0 Any school, in consultation with families, the school community, SAC and/or Home and School Association, and the AVRSB that wishes to develop a student dress code advocating or requiring students to wear “a uniform look” may do so, provided:
- the “uniform look” allows for reasonable attire and vendor options for compliance
  - students are not penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against or punished for nonparticipation in the school’s “uniform look”
  - appropriate communication, consultation and incentives are used to encourage participation
  - resources are identified and provided to assist economically disadvantaged students to participate in the school’s “uniform look” requirement.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 1.0 The Director of Programs and Services shall be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and revision of this policy.
- 2.0 The policy and its administrative procedures shall be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis.

**Superintendent Approved:** April 20/05  
**Ref:** BP 402.13, BP/AP 402.7, BP/AP 102.1  
**Monitoring Date:** Annually  
**Revised:**