



A RESOLUTION of the Seattle Council PTSA to standardize dress code and provide guidelines to ensure equitable enforcement of the code across the Seattle Public School district.

WHEREAS, Meaningful learning occurs in environments that are safe, positive, consistent, and predictable. When the principles of cultural intelligence, safety, respect, honesty, accountability, and equity are exhibited throughout a system, trusting relationships result and excellence for each student can be achieved;

WHEREAS, SCPTSA is a voice for every student and advocates for the well-being and education of all students;

WHEREAS, Currently, dress codes vary across schools and are enforced with discretion of individual staff;

WHEREAS, Individual-level discretion provides opportunity for implicit and explicit bias, discrimination, inconsistent enforcement and negative interaction;

WHEREAS, Student learning should not be compromised because of biased applications of the dress code, nor should students fear unnecessary discipline or body shaming because of clothing;

WHEREAS, SPSD values cultural competency, racial diversity, diversity of gender expression, parenthood status and promotes enforcement practices that respect the student:

WHEREAS, the Seattle Public School District (SPSD) has the authority to provide a standardized dress code for all district schools, reduce incidence of discrimination, and improve equity;

This dress code aims to standardize dress requirements, reduce incidences of discrimination, prevent biased enforcement and shall be applied to all SPSD schools:

Students must wear:

- Clothing that fully covers genitals, buttocks, and nipples with opaque material
- Footwear: shoes or sandals
- Clothing/footwear that is suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, recess and field trips

Students may not wear:

- Clothing with violent language or images, or depictions of weapons;
- Language or images showing drugs (legal or illegal), alcohol, that indicate gang affiliation or any illegal activity;

- Hate speech, profanity, pornography;
- Language or images that create a hostile or intimidating environment based on any class or consistently marginalized group;
- Clothing that reveals undergarments while student is in an upright position (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed);
- Any item that covers the face (except as religious observance or for medical reasons).

School staff shall consistently follow these requirements:

- Dress code enforcement will not create disparities, reinforce or increase marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- Students will not be shamed or required to pass any kind of dress code compliance in front of other students. This includes not calling attention to student clothing choices in the classrooms, hallways, and other shared spaces.
- Students will not be accused of “distracting” other students with clothing.
- School administrators are required to ensure that all staff members are aware of and understand these guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a standardized, anti-bias and gender-neutral dress code, enforced equitably, will be employed throughout the Seattle Public Schools District.

*Adopted June 3, 2019 at a regular and open meeting of General Membership of the Seattle Council PTSA*