

# Administrative Procedure 343

## Students

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## STUDENT DRESS CODE

### BACKGROUND

Westmount Charter School (WCS) is committed to providing a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that supports student well-being, dignity, and academic engagement. Standards of dress should enhance the learning environment while respecting individual identity, diversity, and self-expression.

Consistent with Westmount's Charter mandate and Inside Out philosophy, we recognize that each student is unique and develops in different ways. As such, Westmount does not require a standard school uniform and supports student expression that reflects personal identity, culture, gender identity, and lived experience.

Student dress expectations are inclusive and non-discriminatory, and balance individual rights with the collective responsibility to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment.

The Superintendent delegates to the Principals the responsibility for establishing, communicating, and implementing student dress expectations at each campus.

### PROCEDURES

#### 1. School Dress Code

- 1.1 The Principal shall ensure that any campus-specific student dress code is collaboratively developed with staff and aligns with this Administrative Procedure.
- 1.2 The dress code shall be reviewed periodically and communicated clearly to students and parents/guardians.

#### 2. Guiding Principles

- 2.1 The student dress code shall align with Westmount's Charter mandate and Inside Out philosophy, recognizing student identity, individuality, and developmental needs.
- 2.2 It shall also respect students' rights to expression while ensuring that attire:
  - 2.2.1 Supports a safe and inclusive learning environment;
  - 2.2.2 Does not disrupt teaching and learning;
  - 2.2.3 Does not promote violence, hate, discrimination, illegal activity, or substance use; and
  - 2.2.4 Is appropriate for the school context and activities.

#### 3. Equity and Human Rights Alignment

- 3.1 The dress code shall be applied in a manner consistent with:
  - 3.1.1 The *Education Act*;
  - 3.1.2 The *Alberta Human Rights Act*;
  - 3.1.3 The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and
  - 3.1.4 Westmount Charter Board policies and Administrative Procedures.
- 3.2 Dress expectations shall not discriminate based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, culture, religion, ability, or socio-economic status.

#### 4. Health, Safety, and Learning Considerations

- 4.1 Students must wear attire and footwear that support health and safety requirements, including in physical education, science labs, and other specialized learning environments.
- 4.2 Clothing or accessories that pose a safety risk to the student or others may be restricted.

5. Addressing Concerns and Non-Compliance

- 5.1 Concerns related to student dress shall be addressed respectfully, privately, and in a manner that preserves student dignity.
- 5.2 Responses to dress code concerns shall be educational and supportive, and should prioritize student well-being and inclusion.
- 5.3 Any disciplinary response shall be consistent with:
  - 5.3.1 AP-340 Student Code of Conduct;
  - 5.3.2 AP-350 Student Discipline; and
  - 5.3.3 AP-351 Suspension.

**Legal Reference:**

*Education Act*  
*Alberta Human Rights Act*  
*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

**Cross Reference:**

AP-340 Student Code of Conduct  
AP-350 Student Discipline  
AP-351 Suspension

**Date of Adoption:**

May 11, 2000

**Date of Revision:**

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