

Administrative Procedure 343

Students

STUDENT DRESS CODE

BACKGROUND

Westmount Charter School (WCS) is committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours. Student dress expectations are intended to support student well-being, dignity, safety, and engagement in learning.

Consistent with Westmount's Charter mandate and educational philosophy, WCS recognizes that students are individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, interests, and developmental needs. WCS does not require a standard school uniform and supports reasonable student choice in dress while maintaining expectations that contribute to a positive learning environment.

Student dress expectations shall be applied fairly and respectfully, balancing individual expression with the collective responsibility to maintain a safe and caring learning environment that supports learning and respectful and responsible behaviours.

The Superintendent delegates responsibility to the Principals to establish, communicate, and implement campus-specific student dress expectations consistent with this Administrative Procedure.

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 and recognize students' individuality and developmental needs.
 - 2.2 It shall also respect students' rights to express themselves while ensuring that attire:
 - 2.2.1 Supports a safe and caring learning environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours;
 - 2.2.2 Supports student learning and engagement;
 - 2.2.3 Does not disrupt teaching and learning;
 - 2.2.4 Does not promote violence, hate, discrimination, illegal activity, or the use of prohibited substances; and
 - 2.2.5 Is appropriate for the school context and activities.
3. Legislative Compliance
 - 3.1 The dress code shall be implemented in accordance with:
 - 3.1.1 The *Education Act*;
 - 3.1.2 The *Alberta Human Rights Act*;
 - 3.1.3 Applicable Board policies; and
 - 3.1.4 Administrative Procedures.

- 3.2 Dress expectations shall be applied fairly and, in a manner, consistent with the *Alberta Human Rights Act*.
- 4. Health and Safety Considerations
 - 4.1 Students shall wear attire and footwear that meet health and safety requirements in specialized learning environments, including physical education, science laboratories, CTS courses, field trips, and extracurricular activities.
 - 4.2 Clothing or accessories that create health or safety concerns may be restricted.
- 5. Addressing Concerns
 - 5.1 Concerns regarding student dress shall be addressed respectfully, privately, and in a manner that preserves student dignity.
 - 5.2 School staff shall use educational and supportive approaches when addressing concerns related to student dress.
 - 5.3 Responses to concerns regarding student dress shall be proportionate to the circumstances and 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

Cross Reference: AP-340 Student Code of Conduct
AP-350 Student Discipline
AP-351 Suspension

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2000

Date of Revision: March 16, 2009, February 10, 2014, November 17, 2016, January 28, 2020,
February 22, 2023, February 5, 2026, June 22, 2026

Due for Review: June 22, 2029