

## **STUDENT UNIFORMS AND STUDENT DRESS CODES**

Preserving a beneficial learning environment and assuring the safety and well-being of all students are primary concerns of the board of directors.

Students' choices in matters of dress should be made in consultation with their parents.

### **Student Uniforms**

The board of directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 authorizes individual schools and alternative programs to adopt and implement student dress codes. The dress code may include the requirement that students who attend the school wear a uniform.

A school or alternative program shall obtain student, staff and parental input prior to implementing a student uniform requirement. A decision that students must wear uniforms shall be made, and students and parents notified, no later than the last day of May in the school year prior to the implementation of the uniform requirement.

A school that adopts a requirement that students wear uniforms shall accommodate students who cannot afford uniforms so that the uniform requirement is not an unfair barrier to school attendance and student participation.

The uniforms of nationally recognized youth organizations, and clothing worn in observance of a student's religion, are not subject to this policy.

### **Student Dress Codes**

Student may be regulated when, in the judgment of school administrators, there is a reasonable expectation that:

- A. A health or safety hazard is presented by the student's dress or appearance including possible membership in a gang or hate groups;
- B. Damage to school property shall result from the student's dress; or
- C. A material and substantial disruption of the educational process will result from the students' dress or appearance.

For the purpose of this policy, a material and substantial disruption of the educational process may be found to exist when a student's conduct is inconsistent with any part of the educational mission of the school district. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, the use of lewd, sexual, drug, tobacco or alcohol-related messages, or gang-related apparel.

The superintendent shall establish procedures providing guidance to students, parents, and staff regarding appropriate student dress in school or while engaging in extracurricular activities. Such procedures shall ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang-related apparel, or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership, or causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student shall be asked, with notice to his or her parents, to make appropriate corrections and be subject to discipline if the corrections are not undertaken.

Legal References:   RCW 28A.320.140 Schools with Special standards  
                          WAC 392-400-215 Student Rights  
                                  392-400-225 School district rules defining misconduct

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