



# Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
Feedback .....	2
Who Responded? .....	3
Level of Satisfaction with Content of Policy .....	3
Key Themes .....	4
View All Comments Submitted. ....	5

## Introduction

This report summarizes feedback from Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) stakeholders about *Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code*.

At the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Policy Meeting, *Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code* was presented for discussion. Staff delivered a presentation on the upcoming competitive bid process which will be carried out in the Spring of 2020 as our contract with our current uniform provider expires at the end of the 2020 calendar year. It was determined that a further discussion should happen with regards to a Community Consultation prior to starting the competitive bid process.

At the November 12, 2019 Policy Meeting, Staff presented a [Public Consultation Plan](#). Trustees agreed to change the date of the February Policy Meeting to February 25, 2020 to allow enough time for the Community Consultations, and any potential changes to be made to *Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code*.

At the February 25, 2020 Trustees reviewed the community consultation feedback, and specific language was added, at that time. Other minor changes were made to the policy to provide clarity and continuity between panels.

## Feedback

*Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code* was forwarded for stakeholder consultation from March 3 to March 24, 2020.

All submitted responses can be found in Appendix Ai, below. Because feedback appears as received, the dataset may contain duplicate responses. The online form was anonymous (aside from a field to include name voluntarily), and not password protected, therefore it was unable to prevent duplicate names and duplicate comments. The form was also unable to ensure that the responses came from authentic HCDSB stakeholders who reside, work, or study in Halton (i.e., HCDSB ratepayers, parents, students, staff, trustees).

## Who Responded?

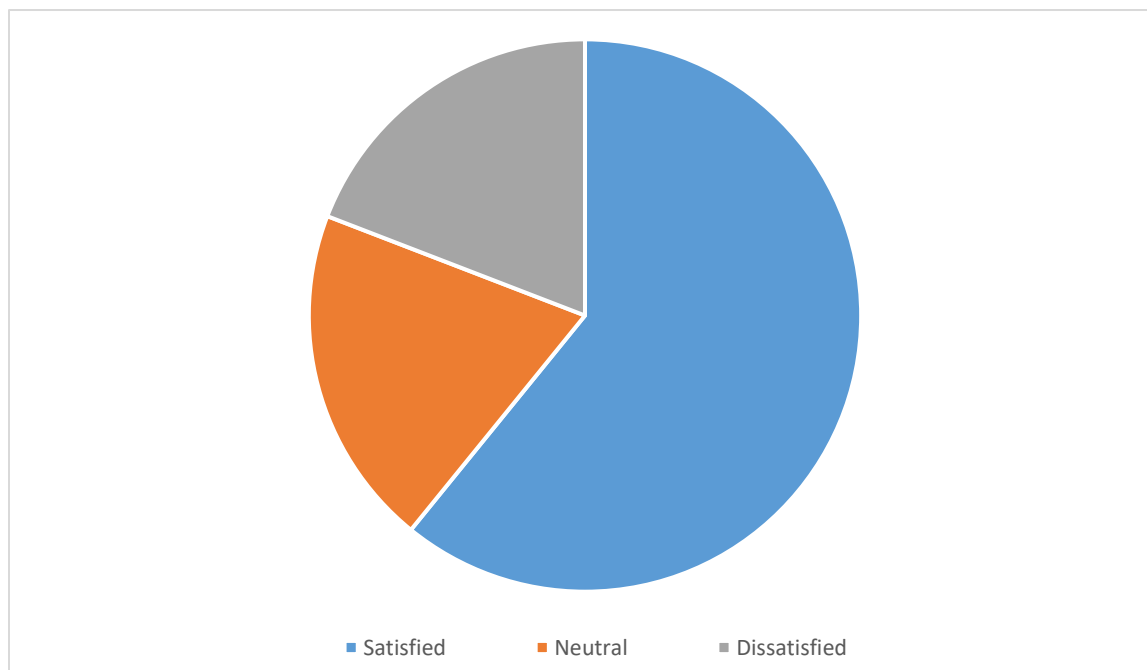
In total, 350 completed responses were submitted using the online form on the HCDSB website. The chart below displays respondents' roles; the vast majority of respondents were HCDSB parents (94%, n = 330).

ROLE	COUNT
HCDSB Parent	330
Member of the Community	1
Halton Parish Member	1
HCDSB Staff	12
HCDSB Student	4
Catholic School Council Chair/Co-Chair	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>

## Level of Satisfaction with Content of Policy

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the changes to the policy.

- 213 respondents indicated they were satisfied with the policy changes.
- 70 respondents indicated they were neutral about the policy changes.
- 67 respondents indicated they were dissatisfied with the policy changes.



## Key Themes

Respondents were invited to provide comments, questions or suggestions related to the policy changes. **205 comments were submitted.** All responses have been redacted and are [listed here.](#)

The following key themes were identified through the comments submitted.

### THEME 1: Choice of Source for Bottoms (51%; n=105)

More than half of comments submitted were related to the changes allowing choice of source for uniform bottoms.

Of these comments, 27 (26%) expressed that the option to purchase bottoms from any provider should be available to secondary schools too.

Examples:

*“The changes in 2 (bottom source) should be applied to all grades including high school”*

*“Why can pants be purchased anywhere for elementary but not for high school?”*

*“Secondary school students should also have the option of buying bottoms from retailers outside of the uniform vendor.”*

### THEME 2: Cost (16%; n=32)

A number of comments were related to cost of the uniform.

Examples:

*“Uniforms are too expensive for struggling families.”*

*“How much of an increase to the already costly of secondary school uniforms will be??”*

*“I would like to see a further amendment that allows Elementary and Secondary students to wear white/navy tops and navy bottoms from any source. This is important to me as I am concerned regarding the cost of purchasing uniform pieces for my child to enter grade 9 next year, at a time when he is rapidly growing. I appreciate that there is financial support available, but what this looked like a few years ago for us was 2 tops + 2 bottoms at no cost. I am very grateful for this support at a time of financial hardship, but it meant laundering these uniform pieces every other day for an active child, at a time when I had to use a coin laundromat. I have relied heavily on parent volunteer-run uniform exchanges, but need to take unpaid time off work to attend the uniform exchange.”*

### THEME 3: Choice of Source for Tops (11%; n=22)

Approximately 11% of comments were related to the allowing choice of source for uniform tops as well.

Examples:

*"I am not clear on the logic of now allowing bottoms to be purchased anywhere, but tops must still be from the uniform provider. Why not allow tops to be purchased elsewhere as well?"*

*"While I appreciate that this amended policy is a start in the right direction, in allowing Elementary students to purchase bottoms from another source of the parents' choosing...why does this not apply to uniform tops as well?"*

*"Parents should be able to purchase BOTH uniform pants and shirts from whatever source they choose."*

### THEME 4: Sensory Sensitivity (9%; n=18)

A number of comments were related to

Examples:

*"The policy update has not taken the feed back given in the public consultation in Milton, sensory does not change because a student goes to high school, HS students still have sensory issues with fabrics. Sensory issues are not just on the lower portion of a human body it can also be on the upper body and or extremities of students."*

*"For sensitive kids clothes provided by vendors are not comfortable and acceptable."*

*"Kids with skin sensitivity issues benefit from higher cotton content but ISU is polyester and their quality and wear is mediocre at best. McCarthy's was better."*

[View All Comments Submitted.](#)