

Uniforms at Riverside School Engagement & Communication Plan



Calgary Board
of Education

dialogue)))

May 30, 2022

1. CONTEXT

In spring 2022, Riverside School shared a school planning survey with parents, which included a question about school uniforms. After reviewing the survey results, a decision was communicated in April 2022 to no longer have school uniforms at the school. Feedback from parents on that decision and how it was made caused CBE and Riverside School leaders to re-evaluate. It was determined that more time was needed to share information about all of the factors that need to be considered in decision-making so that stakeholders could provide informed input and feedback.

2. PURPOSE: WHAT IS TO BE DECIDED?

By November 2022, the CBE will communicate a decision about whether or not Riverside School will have student uniforms for the 2023-24 school year and beyond.

3. FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DECISION-MAKING

In addition to input provided by students, parents and staff, this decision will be made considering:

- CBE values
- Impact on student learning
- Providing a welcoming and caring learning environment that promotes diversity and inclusion
- Alignment with the values and outcomes of the CBE Science Program
- Available resources

4. DECISION MAKERS

The decision will be made by the following individuals:

- Education Director, Area 6 and Alternative Programs, Unique Settings, Program Evaluation
- Education Director, Area 3 and Early Learning, Leadership and Learning

Decision-makers will also consult with superintendents and other CBE leaders before a decision is made.

5. ENGAGEMENT PLANNING TEAM

- Education Director, Area 6 and Alternative Programs, Unique Settings, Program Evaluation
- Education Director, Area 3 and Early Learning, Leadership and Learning
- Principal, Riverside School
- Manager, Community Engagement
- Community Engagement Advisor

6. IN SCOPE OF ENGAGEMENT (FACTORS STAKEHOLDERS CAN INFLUENCE)

- Whether or not students of Riverside School are required to wear uniforms to school.

7. OUT OF SCOPE/GIVENS (FACTORS STAKEHOLDERS CANNOT INFLUENCE)

- Alberta Education legislation and regulations.
- CBE Board policies and administrative regulations.
- Type, colour, design and cost of school uniforms.
- Decisions made through this engagement process will affect Riverside School only and not affect other CBE schools and programs.

8. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS

This engagement will provide an opportunity for the school community to gain a full understanding of all the factors that need to be considered when making a decision about student uniforms at Riverside School. Parents, students and staff will be able to share thoughts and perspectives on this subject.

If there are divergent perspectives on the topic, there will need to be a careful balancing of all considerations in this decision.

9. IMPACT ON STAKEHOLDERS

There are a variety of impacts that are influenced by perception. Some impacts may be seen as positive or negative, depending on the point of view and experience.

10. ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

The students, parents and staff at Riverside School will have opportunities to comment on factors that should be taken into consideration in this decision as follows:

- Information will be provided on all the factors to be considered in decision-making so stakeholders understand how the decision is being made and are able to provide informed input.
- Students, parents and staff will have multiple opportunities to get their questions answered and provide input (online engagement opportunity, virtual or in-person session, information posted on school website, etc.).
- The principal of Riverside School will share information with their school community through the school website, school council meetings and direct email messages.
- Information about this engagement process will be available on the Riverside School website and shared with staff and families through email and social media.
- Perspectives and input gathered through this engagement process will be summarized and posted on the school website prior to a decision being made.
- Only input and feedback provided through this engagement process will be considered in decision-making.

11. ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

The following objectives identify outputs and outcomes resulting from this engagement process:

1. To *inform and communicate* with affected students, parents and staff about the factors that will be considered in the decision-making process about student uniforms at Riverside School.
2. To *gather input* on the ways that student uniforms affect student learning and provide an inclusive, welcoming learning environment for all students.

12. ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION TIMELINE

This timeline may require adjustments as we progress through this process. When that is required, an updated engagement and communication plan will be posted to the school website.

May 31 – June 16	Online survey regarding fall 2022 participation
Oct. 3-6	Virtual and/or in-person session for parents and students
Day after session - Oct. 23	Online surveys or idea boards open for students, parents and staff
By Nov. 15	Survey results posted on school website and parents advised that a decision will be communicated by Nov. 30
By Nov. 30	Decision communicated to Riverside School community

13. MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION

We will measure the success of this engagement initiative by asking session and survey evaluation questions and summarizing and evaluating responses