



MEMO

To: Yaw Obeng
From: Henri Sparks
Date: October 25, 2016

RE: Halloween Costume Guidelines

This memo outlines District guidelines regarding Halloween activities to allow students to feel safe, respected, and included.

The following guidelines shall apply:

- Considering the national concerns around clowns, the District will not allow any clown costumes whatsoever or any attire that completely hides a student's identity. If any building administrator or other staff should encounter a person dressed as a clown, Central Office and the SRO should be contacted immediately.
- Some parents/cultures may not celebrate Halloween and would not like their students participating in any Halloween-related activities. Schools should create a safe space for students who cannot participate and all attempts should be made engage these students in meaningful alternative activities and help these students not feel excluded.
- One of the most important mandates is that costumes shall not be demeaning to any person or group based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity (boys as girls and vice versa), nationality, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or to any individual staff or student at the school. Costumes should be respectful and culturally sensitive, (e.g., non-Muslim students should not wear hijab or other garb that could be viewed as culturally insensitive).
- Costumes should not include blood or imply any type of violence.
- For any student who cannot afford a costume, the school should provide one.
- No costume can be worn that is unsafe or that may create a safety hazard.
- No weapons or replica weapons are to be brought to school.
- No masks are allowed that completely hide the identity of a student; however, masks may be worn during a parade or other specific activity, provided that safety is not hindered, as determined by the site administrator.

If parents have questions regarding the District's policies around Halloween, they should be directed to the building's administrator. Parent concerns should be documented so the District may respond at a later date.

Sparks