

Students

District Wide Dress Code and School Uniform Policy - Kindergarten through Twelve

Over the past several years, many parents/guardians and community members have urged the Administration to adopt a dress code with a uniform policy, as a means of countering the influence of gangs, minimizing disruption, and improving the learning environment. The Administration believes that the use of school uniforms will positively enhance school safety and improve school climate, and that this policy is necessary for the health and safety of the school environment. The Administration has determined that each school site may implement a school wide uniform policy, pursuant to state law, for all students in grades kindergarten through twelve not sooner than six (6) months following notice to parents and the determination of the availability of resources to assist economically disadvantaged pupils and not later than July 1, 2004. The existing district dress code will remain in effect for all school sites not implementing a uniform policy. After each school year, the district will comprehensively assess this policy, modifying it as appropriate.

The Board encourages the parent/guardians, staff, and students at each school site to approve a school uniform dress code to create a positive learning environment and to enhance health and safety for all students.

Each school in the district may implement, within the parameters set forth in the administrative regulation, a school site uniform policy beginning not sooner than six (6) months following notice to parents of the policy and the determination of the availability of resources to assist economically disadvantaged pupils. (The term "school" herein shall mean all elementary, grades K-5, all middle schools, grades 6-8 and all high schools, grades 9-12.)

A parent/guardian committee shall be created at each school site that adopts school site uniforms. The parent/guardian committee shall assist the school site in fund-raising efforts to purchase uniforms. The uniforms purchased through such efforts will be donated to those economically disadvantaged families that request such a donation.

Further, the parent/guardian committee shall assist in the yearly evaluation of the use of uniforms at the school site, by using criteria adopted by the Board as set forth in the administrative regulation. The parent/guardian committee shall not review private student records in this evaluation or in its fund-raising and donation efforts.

No student shall be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against nor denied attendance at school if the student's parent or guardian choose not to have the pupil comply with the school uniform policy.

Students

District Wide Dress Code and School Uniform Policy - Kindergarten through Twelve (continued)

A method by which parents may choose not to have their children comply with a school wide uniform policy shall be adopted by District regulation.

The Board also reserves the right to adopt a district wide dress code policy.

Legal Reference:

CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE

- 35183 School dress codes; uniforms
- 35183.5 Sun-protective clothing
- 35294.1 School safety plans
- 48907 Student exercise of free expression
- 49066 Grades; effect of physical education class apparel

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 302 Pupils to be neat and clean on entering school

COURT DECISIONS

- Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al. (C.D. Cal. 1993) 827 F. Supp. 1459
- Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education (1992) Cal. 4th 251
- Hartzell v. Connell (1984) 35 Cal. Sd. 899