

# STUDENT DRESS ¶

## GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS ¶ FOR IMPLEMENTING A SCHOOL UNIFORM CODE ¶

Subject to approval of the Superintendent or designee, principals may establish specific dress standards for their own schools. Schools will separately determine the appropriate uniform, programs for financial assistance, incentives and compliance measures. In implementing a uniform policy, it is the expectation of the District that each school will work closely with members of its local community to structure site-based procedures responsive to the community's specific needs. A school uniform policy or standard mode of dress shall be detailed enough to avoid ambiguity, neutral and applicable to all students in the school, and sufficiently flexible to be effective. ¶

Principals will assure that the student uniform policy or standard mode of dress gives proper recognition to a student's constitutional rights. Allowance for such rights shall be considered in any school uniform policy. ¶

A school uniform policy or standard mode of dress shall meet the following conditions: ¶

1. It shall articulate the interests the school wishes to promote. Such interests may include, but not be limited to, contributing to improved attendance, resulting in increased student achievement, and advancing community support. ¶
2. It shall ensure a vote of at least 80 percent agreement by current school parents and 80 percent agreement by current school staff that a specific standard of dress is desirable and appropriate at the school. ¶
3. It shall contain a clearly defined opt out provision for students who have a bona fide religious or philosophical objection. ¶
4. It shall offer financial help to low income families so that issues surrounding cost and availability of uniforms are addressed. ¶
5. It shall be reviewed annually during the first three years of implementation by parents, staff and students. ¶
6. It shall allow for some diversity and recognition of cultural influences in uniform components. ¶
7. It shall ensure that the standard of dress can be fairly and consistently enforced; and further, it shall set forth clearly defined disciplinary actions for violation of the school uniform policy or standard mode of dress. ¶

- ~~8. It shall be published and distributed to students and a copy filed with the administration and posted in each school building.¶~~

## ~~**School Uniform Dress Code Implementation Guidelines:¶**~~

- ~~1. The School Uniform concept is presented to the school administration by the parents or vice versa.¶~~
- ~~2. School establishes a Uniform Committee to further pursue a school uniform dress code. Parents, school staff, and students should be represented on the Committee. The Committee will collect initial survey information concerning school uniforms.¶~~
- ~~3. Uniform Committee prepares a ballot question and distributes the question for a vote on the desirability and appropriateness of a school uniform dress code at the school. All current parents and current school staff shall receive a ballot. Eighty percent (80%) of all current school parents and all current school staff must favor a school uniform dress code before proceeding. Voting shall take place by secret ballot with identification and signature required.¶~~
- ~~4. Uniform Committee drafts the Proposed School Uniform Dress/Standard Mode of Dress Plan which should include:¶~~
  - ~~a. Reason for school uniform dress code¶~~
  - ~~b. Application for exemption of school uniform dress code¶~~
  - ~~c. Incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with the uniform policy¶~~
  - ~~d. Such disciplinary action as necessary to encourage compliance with the policy. Since the intent of the policy is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in uniform from receiving the education to which he/she is entitled, no student shall be suspended from class or from school, expelled from school, or receive a lowered academic grade as a result of not complying with the policy. Further, prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the policy, a conference with the parent must be held with a school administrator or counselor to solicit parental cooperation and support. Disciplinary action is to be initiated only after all other means to secure support and cooperation as mentioned above have not succeeded. A "progressive discipline" approach is to be employed by the school support staff so as to encourage full and consistent compliance with the least amount of disciplinary~~

~~action. The same disciplinary actions applied to enforce other school and district rules may be utilized. No student shall be considered noncompliant with the policy in the following instances:¶~~

- ~~i. When noncompliance derives from financial hardship.¶~~
- ~~ii. When a student wears a button, armband or other accouterment to exercise the right to freedom of expression, unless the button, armband or other accouterment signifies or is related to gangs, gang membership or gang activity.¶~~
- ~~iii. When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.¶~~
- ~~iv. When wearing a school uniform violates a student's sincerely held religious belief.¶~~
- ~~v. When a student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the uniform policy by following identified procedures.¶~~

~~e. Application for Financial Assistance for School Uniform¶~~

- ~~i. No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear a uniform by reason of financial hardship.¶~~
- ~~ii. Each school shall develop a procedure and criteria to identify families in need of financial assistance; determine the form and type of financial assistance appropriate for the individual school community; designate a specific staff member or school volunteer to assist those families in need of assistance; and prepare a flyer describing in detail the uniform and listing the range of costs for each competitively priced item of clothing as provided by a variety of vendors. The flyer shall state that in cases of financial hardship, parents may contact their child's school by phone, mail or in person to request assistance. Each school shall work with staff, the local school community and business partners to identify resources for assisting families.¶~~

~~f. List of clothing choices for the school uniform which shall include: types and colors of uniform; requirements for jackets/outer garments; optional articles of attire, if any; methods to facilitate recycling of uniforms within the school community; notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles.~~

~~5. Presentation of the Proposed School Dress Code Plan to parents, school staff and students. The means by which this information is communicated shall include one or more of the following: District communication; school newsletters; parent forums; telephonic notification or through use of a telephone hotline; PTA/PTO meetings and newsletters; parent advisory meetings; television, radio, and/or newspaper announcements; posters displayed at school and in the community; registration materials.~~

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~~6. School administration submits, to Superintendent, request for review and approval. Attachments that must be included:~~

~~a. School Dress Code Plan along with all the attachments~~

~~b. School uniform timeline~~

~~c. Tally of the ballots/vote on school uniforms~~

~~d. Copies of communications sent to parents, school staff and students~~

~~7. Annual evaluation~~

~~a. All schools will participate in an evaluation at the end of each school year for the first three years of the mandatory uniform program. Thereafter the evaluation of the uniform program may be included in the school's regular review process.~~

~~b. The schools and the District shall review the results of the evaluations and the District shall consider proposed modifications to the uniform policy as appropriate.~~

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~~LEGAL REF.:~~

~~C.R.S. § 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(1x)~~

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~~CROSS REFS.:¶~~

~~JRR, Student Rights and Responsibilities ←~~

~~JRDC, Student Dress¶~~

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