

Students

School Uniforms

Students who attend schools within the District that have adopted school uniform policies are required to wear school uniforms to school on all attendance days, unless otherwise indicated by the School Principal, in order to maintain and promote orderly school functions, student safety, and a positive learning environment. This policy will be waived for any student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) provide the Board with a signed statement detailing acceptable grounds for the objection.

Should a District school desire to adopt a school uniform policy, such school shall obtain input from school staff members, parents, interested community members and submit such information to the Board for approval. The Board will not approve a school's proposal for a student uniform requirement unless responses to a survey of enrolled families have been obtained from at least 75% of eligible families and at least 75% of the responses support the proposal.

Students may:

1. Display religious messages on items of clothing to the same extent they are permitted to display other messages;
2. Wear attire that is part of the student's religious practice;
3. Wear or display expressive items, such as a button, as long as such items do not contribute to disruption by substantially interfering with discipline or with the rights of others; and
4. Wear the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.

No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear a uniform because of:

1. Insufficient time in which to comply with this policy;
2. Financial hardship;
3. Hairstyles, including hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists; or
4. Religious objection by the student's parent/guardian to the student's compliance with this policy or the applicable uniform if they have provided the Board with a signed statement detailing their objection.

Any District school that opts for a school uniform policy shall develop a plan to provide uniforms to economically disadvantaged students.

Such school shall develop incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance. Disciplinary action may be taken for failure to comply with this policy. Before initiating disciplinary action, a conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be requested in order to solicit cooperation and support.

The Building Principal shall communicate information to students and parents/guardians concerning:

1. The uniform's description and its availability;
2. The requirements for outer garments;
3. Optional articles of attire, if any;
4. Compliance measures to be employed;
5. Methods to facilitate recycling of uniforms within the school community; and Notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25, and 5/10-22.25b.
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 89 S.Ct. 7 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7.160, 7.190

Adopted: February 8, 2005

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