Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Dress Code
Code	221
Status	Active
Adopted	July 23, 2008
Last Revised	~~April 25, 2012~~ July 2026
Prior Revision	April 25, 2012

Purpose

The Board recognizes every student's right to freedom of expression in both speech, whether written or oral, and the wearing of apparel, as that right is guaranteed by the United States Supreme Court.

The Board also recognizes its obligation to provide schools where the health, safety, and welfare of the students who attend those schools are given paramount consideration, and where a positive learning environment must be maintained.

The Board is aware of its obligations to make every effort to minimize the opportunities for student distraction and/or disruption in the schools under its jurisdiction.

Authority:

The Board believes that a dress code and/or a policy of wearing uniforms will address issues related to the health, safety and welfare of the students and the maintenance of a positive learning environment.

The Board directs compliance with Board policy and law prohibiting discrimination, including but not limited to protections addressing: [3][4]

1. Protective hairstyles, including but not limited to hairstyles such as locs, braids, twists, coils, Bantu knots, afros and extensions.
2. Religious creed including head covering and hair styles historically associated with religious creeds.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technical education, extracurricular activities or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.[2]

The Board directs district staff to support students experiencing educational instability by waiving penalties related to a delay in compliance with Board policy or school rules related to dress and grooming.[5]

Definitions

Exclusionary dress code is defined as a policy, either in writing or declared verbally by a school principal, which prohibits the wearing of certain apparel and accessories by the students during school time on school premises or at any school-sponsored event whether on or off school premises.

Prescribed dress code is defined as a policy, either in writing or declared verbally by a given school principal, that requires the student to wear a certain mode of dress during school time on school premises or at any school-sponsored event whether on or off school premises.

Uniform policy is defined as a policy, either in writing or declared verbally by a given school principal, which requires a mode of dress for both male and female students which may range from apparel that is similar in color or style to apparel that is identical in color and style.

Authority

The Board, therefore, resolves that an exclusionary dress code shall apply to every student within the School District of Pittsburgh. The exclusionary dress code shall be in effect during regular school hours and at any school-sponsored event whether on or off school premises.[1][2]

Delegation of Responsibility

In addition to the system-wide exclusionary dress code, the principals in the elementary, middle and secondary schools are authorized to establish within their particular school either an additional exclusionary dress code, a prescribed dress code and/or a uniform policy.

The Superintendent shall promulgate and implement clear procedures and guidelines for planning, participation in planning, and adoption of any exclusionary dress code, prescribed dress code or uniform policy.

Legal
1. 24 P.S. 1317.3
2. 22 PA Code 12.11
3. 43 P.S. 951 et seq
4. Pol. 102
5. Pol. 231