

Policy

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Since school is a place of business and learning, students are expected to dress appropriately. It is the obligation of the students to maintain their personal appearance in a manner that reflects well on themselves and on the school.

Students will dress in good taste. It is their responsibility, as well as that of their parents/guardians to see that the students are properly dressed and well-groomed. Any type of garment that does not contribute to the proper social and academic atmosphere of the school will be prohibited by the school authorities. Students will wear clothing that is neat, clean and suitable for the classroom. Attire should not be so extreme as to create a disturbance of the educational environment.

All students shall dress according to the following standards:

- A. Proper and safe footwear is required at all times;
- B. Head coverings are not permitted unless for religious or medical purposes. Hats are not to be worn or carried throughout the school;
- C. Skin-tight fitting pants, dresses or shorts are not permitted;
- D. Clothing that could cause damage to any student or school property is not to be worn;
- E. Girls are not permitted to wear transparent blouses;
- F. Halter tops and tube tops are not permitted. Tops must meet the waistband of slacks, skirts or shorts;
- G. Mini-skirts (mid-thigh or higher) are not permitted;
- H. Short shorts (mid-thigh or higher) are not permitted;
- I. Undershirts are not permitted to be worn as the outer garment;
- J. Slogans, patches and emblems that are obscene are not permitted.
- K. Clothing worn while actively participating in physical education class is not to be worn in the classroom in schools where locker rooms are available. A change of clothing must be brought to school. Physical education attire (such as sweat suits, etc.) is only permitted to be worn in gym and/or athletic field.
- L. Pants should not hang so low as to expose underwear;
- M. Sneakers and shoes with laces should have laces tied or secured at all times.

Violations of School Dress Code

School staff shall assess and report any student in violation of the dress code. Students reporting to school wearing clothing in violation of the dress code shall be subject to corrective and/or disciplinary measures as determined by the reporting staff member or his or her designee. These measures may include:

- A. Parent/guardian bringing a change of clothes to school;
- B. Parent/guardian conference;

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- C. Detention;
- D. In-school suspension;
- E. Saturday detention/suspension.

School Uniforms

The state legislature has authorized school districts to require school uniforms be worn by students in certain circumstances (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8). The board recognizes that uniform clothing requirements can assist in providing a safe and effective learning environment by discouraging peer rivalry, instilling students with a sense of discipline, and helping students concentrate on their school work. Therefore the Jersey City Board of Education authorizes individual schools to adopt a requirement for students at that school to wear a school uniform if:

- A. The requirement is requested by the principal, the staff and the parents/guardians of the school; and
- B. The state district superintendent determines that the requirement would enhance the learning environment.

The requirement for school uniforms may be limited to certain grades, if so requested.

Implementation of a School Uniform Policy

Before a school may implement a requirement that school uniforms be worn by students, the school shall hold a public hearing on the issue. The school shall give prior notice to staff and parents/guardians of the public hearing.

Procedures shall be adopted which ensure the following:

- A. A method for adequately determining the interest of staff and parents/guardians of a school in having a requirement for the wearing of school uniforms by students at that school;
- B. A means to identify and assist students who are economically disadvantaged;
- C. Provision for exceptions to the school uniform requirement on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs;
- D. Provision of three months notice to the parents/guardians of a child attending a school before implementing a school uniform requirement in that school.

No student shall be denied attendance at school or penalized for failing to wear a uniform by reason of demonstrated financial hardship. It shall be the responsibility of each of the involved schools to assist those families showing evidence of financial hardship and to provide appropriate support when necessary. Families in need of financial assistance for the purchase of school uniforms will be encouraged to contact the school. The building principal will determine the form and type of assistance and/or waiver that is appropriate. The board shall include a provision to assist economically disadvantaged student to acquire said uniforms.

A school uniform requirement shall not prevent students who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations from wearing the organization's uniforms to school on days when the organization has scheduled a meeting. The principal shall maintain a list of approved organizations.

The uniform requirements as set forth in this policy may be suspended for classroom, school and/or district activities as appropriate. Any variation of the uniform policy must be approved by the principal or his/her designee prior to the activity.

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Key Words

Dress, Dress Code, Attire, Uniforms

See Regulation Manual:

AR-1 Uniforms Procedures

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-7 Legislative findings and declaration
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8 Adoption of dress codes by boards of
Education, Uniforms required; request for code by principal,
staff, and parents
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9 Adoption of dress code policy prohibiting wearing of
clothing indicating membership in certain gangs

Possible

Cross References: *5111 Admission
*5125 Pupil records
*5131 Conduct/discipline
*5131.5 Vandalism/violence
*5141.3 Health examinations and immunizations

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.