

## 5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education recognizes that dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of pupils and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to make decisions regarding their appearance except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools. Cleanliness and proper dress are important in setting the pattern of school and social conduct. The administration is encouraged to invite staff, pupils, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate when minimum standards for pupil dress are being discussed.

The Board authorizes the superintendent to develop school regulations prohibiting pupil dress or grooming practices which:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the pupil himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. Prevent the pupil from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement;
- E. Indicates that a pupil has membership in , or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities.

Minimum standards shall take into account cleanliness, neatness, health and appropriateness. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy which:

- A. Designate the Building Principal as the arbiter of pupil dress and grooming in his/her building;
- B. Ensure that all rules implementing this policy impose only necessary restrictions on the exercise of the pupil's taste and individuality;
- C. Inform all pupils of the expected standards of dress.



Any pupil who comes to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness of dress may be sent home to be properly prepared for school, or shall be required to prepare themselves before entering the classroom.

In the event that the Principal, staff and parents of an individual school requests the adoption of a policy allowing the wearing of a uniform on a required or voluntary basis the Board shall conduct a hearing in order to determine that such policy will enhance the school teaming environment.

### School Uniform Provision

The Board believes school dress can influence pupil behavior and enhance a school's learning environment. Therefore, the Board adopts a School Uniform Provision of this Dress and Grooming Policy to require pupils at the following school(s) to wear a school uniform:

All Pupils – Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Twelve

The School Uniform Provision of this Policy shall be implemented in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-7 and 18A:11-8 and the Board will assist economically disadvantaged students.

This school uniform policy does not prohibit pupils who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations, which are approved by the Board, from wearing organization uniforms to school on days that the organization has a scheduled meeting.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 1 May 2013

