

Students

School Uniforms – Mandatory Dress Code

Students are required to wear school uniforms to school on all school attendance days, in order to maintain and promote orderly school functions, student safety, and a positive learning environment. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a waiver of this policy for any reason if they have provided the Board with a signed statement of objection detailing the grounds of the objection.

The Superintendent or designee shall designate a District-wide uniform after receiving input from school staff members, parents, and interested community members. 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; or
3. Objection by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) on religious grounds to the student's compliance with this policy or the applicable uniform, if they have provided the Board with a signed statement of objection detailing the grounds for the objection.

Any student eligible for reduced or free lunches, or for a waiver of student fees, is eligible for financial assistance toward the purchase of school uniforms. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a procedure for parents(s)/guardian(s) to request financial assistance.

No student shall be suspended or expelled from school, or receive a lowered academic grade, because of not complying with this policy. Each school shall develop incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance. Persistent violation will result in a conference with the students' parents(s)/guardian(s) may be requested in order to solicit cooperation and support.

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

CROSS REF; 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Discipline)

ADOPTED: