
Students

School Uniforms

Students are encouraged to wear school uniforms to school on all school attendance days, unless otherwise indicated by the Building Principal, in order to maintain and promote orderly school functions, student safety, and a positive learning environment. The Building Principal is authorized to designate limited days on which this uniform policy is relaxed.

Each Building Principal shall designate a school-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 by reason of :

1. personal choice, 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 parent(s)/guardian(s) to request financial assistance.

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

The Building Principal shall communicate information to students and parent(s)/guardian(s) concerning:

1. the type and color of the uniform and its availability;
2. the requirements for jackets and outer garments;
3. optional articles of attire, if any;
4. compliance measures to be employed;

5. the availability of financial support and the procedures for applying for assistance;
6. methods to facilitate recycling of uniforms within the school community; and
7. notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles.

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 by the Board of Education