

STUDENT UNIFORMS AND DRESS CODE COUNTRY CLUB HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT 160

Except as provided below, students shall wear uniforms while attending school or school-related functions. At all times, including times when uniforms are not required, students must wear appropriate clothing as defined by the following dress code. Clothing which materially and substantially disrupts the learning environment, invades the rights of others, and/or endangers the health or safety of students is expressly prohibited.

Dress Code. Students shall not, while at school or at school-related functions, wear or exhibit any of the following:

1. Hats, hoodies, outdoor coats or jackets, or other outer clothing, any of which tend to obscure other students' vision in the classroom or to otherwise distract from learning.
2. Any clothing with language or pictures conveying expressed or implied obscenities, sex or vulgarities, promoting the use of tobacco, alcohol, firearms or illegal drugs, inciting violence or other illegal acts, or conveying other messages inconsistent with community values or to otherwise distract from learning.
3. Immodest clothing defined as exposing skin to the degree that it causes a distraction and/or disruption to the learning environment. Examples include but are not limited to the following: tube tops, tops with spaghetti straps, mini-skirts, clothing that reveal the mid-section. Pants must fully cover all bottom undergarments.
4. Any item of clothing, colors, jewelry, accessory or hair style containing a symbol of a gang or which, by its manner of display, constitutes or suggests a symbol of a gang. The Board of Education recognizes that gangs are present in the District community and pose a real threat of disruption to the schools and/or endanger the health or safety of the students. (A "gang"—as that term is used in this policy—is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of, conspiracy to commit, or advocacy of illegal acts.) The Board recognizes that what clothing is identifiable as gang-related changes frequently and is, therefore, often difficult to discern, but all reasonable inferences will be drawn in favor of designating questionable material as "gang" related and prohibiting it under the dress code.

Uniforms. The uniform which students must wear, at all times when in school or on school property, except as hereinafter exempted, is defined as follows:

- ◆ **Bottoms.** Navy blue pants, skirts, jumpers, and (during hot weather) shorts (essentially knee-length or longer).
 - ◇ Standards. Pants, skirts, split-skirts, jumpers, and shorts shall be plain or pleated cotton twill or cotton and polyester twill—or equivalent. Bottoms must be worn at the waist (not sagging) with a fastened belt.
 - ◇ Conditions. Navy corduroys will be permitted during cold weather. Jeans, jeans-style or denim fabric pants, sweat pants (regardless of fabric), leggings, stirrup pants, athletic-style shorts are not permitted. Any other bottoms not in compliance with the foregoing standards will not be acceptable at any time.
- ◆ **Tops.** Zenon Sykuta: navy blue; Meadowview: light blue; Southwood: white.
 - ◇ Standards. Shirts or blouses shall be plain (without emblems, designs or accent colors), oxford- broadcloth- or polo-style cotton and polyester—or equivalent. Shirts or blouses must have collars. Short- or long-sleeved shirts will be permitted. Sweaters shall be white or navy blue, plain cardigan-style, crewneck-style, or V-neck-style, and may be either vest or long-sleeved. Turtlenecks in school colors are permitted in cold weather.

- ◇ **Conditions.** Shirts with Nehru-style collars, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and sleeveless blouses or blouses with V-necks or ruffles will not be acceptable. Tops shall be worn tucked in bottoms at all times. T-shirts, when worn as undergarments, must be plain, solid white.
- ◆ **Shoes.**
 - ◇ **K-8 Standards.** Footwear shall be plain oxford or athletic (gym) shoes. Oxfords shall be black, navy blue, or dark brown. Gym shoes shall be constructed to provide the flexibility and non-skid sole surface essential for full and safe participation in physical education activities. Sandals or other open-toe footwear, and any footwear with designs, or colors other than black, navy blue, dark brown or white are not acceptable, no exceptions. Oxfords with heels are not to be worn in Physical Education classes.
- ◆ **Belts.** A belt must be worn at all times with pants.
- ◆ **Hair Accessories.** Any color hair beads are acceptable.

Enforcement. The principal determines whether clothing or accessories are in compliance with the uniform and dress code policy. Principals are instructed to apply the definitions, standards and conditions enumerated in this Handbook and Board Policy in a fair, consistent, and, above all, clear manner, without reference to particular viewpoints that may be expressed by students. Should definitions, standards and conditions ever prove indeterminate, principals are directed to adhere to a strict interpretation of the underlying intent of this policy.

Exceptions. Uniforms need not be worn at extracurricular athletic, academic, dramatic, or musical events or ceremonies unless required by the staff member supervising the event. Other appropriate clothing requirements may be made for such events by faculty sponsors with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, and at all times students must comply with all other requirements of this dress code.

In grades 7-8, uniforms must be worn for physical education classes, and purchased from Southwood Middle School.

Whenever a student's religious beliefs or health reasonably require deviation from the uniform or dress code requirements, the student's parents must notify and consult with the building principal regarding a request for an exception to the uniform and dress code requirements. The principal shall determine whether a genuine conflict exists between the uniform requirements and the student's religious beliefs or health needs and what accommodation, if any, is required to be made, and shall recommend that accommodation to the Superintendent, who may grant or deny such exception. The principal shall recommend the accommodation that is the least disruptive to the school environment, and the specific accommodation requested by a parent or student may not necessarily be recommended.

Each building principal, with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, may designate up to one day per month as a day on which uniforms need not be worn by any student. On that day, students must comply with all other requirements of the dress code.

Free Expression. Students who wish to convey at school a message to others, but who feel restricted from doing so by the uniform or dress code requirements, should report their concern to their building principal. If the message is not disruptive to the school environment, the principal shall suggest and make available to the students appropriate alternative means of expressing themselves.

Sanctions. Students violating this Policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline. Students arriving at school dressed in violation of this policy will be disciplined according to procedures as outlined on page 12. Other clothing or clothing accessories worn in violation of this policy may be ordered removed and may be confiscated from a student. Flagrant or repeated violations may result in in-school suspension.