

MANDATORY SCHOOL UNIFORMS

PHILOSOPHY

The Terrebonne Parish School Board believes that a mandatory school uniform policy will provide a more secure school environment, promote an atmosphere for greater discipline, and increase learning opportunities for students by removing many of the distractions and connotations associated with various types of clothing.

The policy of the School Board shall be that no mode of attire will be considered proper for school wear that distracts from or disrupts classroom and school decorum. No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang-related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures. The principals of each school will make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided. Any substantial complaint concerning the dress code shall be dealt with by the school administration.

All students attending Terrebonne Parish Schools are required to adhere to the Board's mandatory uniform policy.

NOTIFICATION

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date.

If the Board modifies the existing uniform policy, it shall notify, in writing the parent or guardian of each student of the policy adoption or uniform policy modification at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy. Each school shall display any uniform selected for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective date for wearing of the uniform.

However, nothing shall prohibit the Board from requiring a new or revised dress code or uniform policy without the required notice in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this policy, *emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within 1,000 feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

Body armor shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

UNIFORMS

Students attending schools in Terrebonne Parish shall be required to wear uniforms to class. Uniforms shall be worn as follows:

Primary School Boys Dress Code (K-3):

White shirt (oxford or knit with collar), uniform navy pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), or shorts

Middle School Boys Dress Code (4-8):

White shirt (oxford or knit with collar), uniform khaki pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), or shorts

Secondary School Boys Dress Code (9-12):

White shirt (oxford or knit with collar), uniform khaki pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), or shorts

Primary School Girls Dress Code (K-3):

White blouse (oxford, knit or broadcloth with collar), uniform navy pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), pleated skirt, shorts, skorts, or jumper

Middle School Girls Dress Code (4-8):

White blouse (oxford, knit or broadcloth with collar), uniform khaki pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), pleated or straight skirt, shorts, skorts, or jumper

Secondary School Girls Dress Code (9-12):

White blouse (oxford, knit or broadcloth with collar), uniform khaki pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), pleated or straight skirt, shorts, skorts, or jumper

Schools may elect a solid color shirt (based upon school colors) to wear along with the white shirts as long as the "oxford or knit with collar" remains the same (no multi-colored shirts are allowed). Only the official school logo is allowed on the shirts.

The dress code also allows turtlenecks. Turtlenecks may be worn as follows:

Primary Grades - Turtlenecks shall be white with no monograms, no name brands, and no logos. Turtlenecks do not have to be worn under a uniform shirt or a uniform jumper.

Middle or Secondary Grades - Turtlenecks shall be white with no monograms, no name brands, and no logos. Turtlenecks shall be worn under a uniform shirt and/or uniform jumper.

DEFINITIONS

UNIFORMS STYLE PANTS:

Depending on the grade of the student, pants must be navy or khaki in color. Khaki pants may be light or dark (no white allowed). No jean material will be acceptable. Pants must have a front zipper and buttons/ snap/clip closure at the waist. Pants may have partial or full elastic at the waist. Pants must have straight legs. Cargo pants, jumpsuits, overalls, or coveralls are not allowed. Pants may be pleated/not pleated, cuffed/not cuffed. If pants have a belt loop, a belt must be worn. Shorts, Capri or full length pants will be allowed. Shorts must conform to pants regulations and in grades 4-12 must be no shorter than five inches (5") from the floor when kneeling. The small discreet brand name, such as "Dockers," "Duckhead," etc. will be permitted.

SHIRTS:

Shirts must be oxford, knit, or broadcloth with a collar. Shirts must be short or long-sleeved only. Sleeveless shirts are not allowed.

SWEATSHIRTS/SWEATERS:

Pullover, long-sleeve sweatshirts/sweaters with ribbed collar, wrist, and waist, black, white, navy, khaki, gray, or the designated school color, possessing no labels, logos, print, or embroidery, except for the official school logo, will be permitted. Sweatshirt/sweaters officially sanctioned by the school are acceptable.

DRESS CODE REGULATIONS

- 1) All students will wear the designated school uniform clothing as outlined in the uniform policy. All clothing must be worn as designed by manufacturer. (No tying outwear around waist or neck.)
- 2) The wearing of uniforms which are oversized, baggy, sagging, or extremely tight fitting is prohibited.
- 3) Pants must be hemmed and side slits are not permitted. Pants cannot be made of denim

material (jeans).

- 4) Belts may not be more than one size larger than the waist. All students must wear belts if pants have loops. Waistbands should be worn on waist.
- 5) Shirts must be worn tucked in at all times. Undergarments must not be visible.
- 6) Uniform shirt collars must be visible when wearing a sweatshirt.
- 7) All apparel in grades 4-12 must be worn no shorter than five inches (5") from the floor when kneeling.
- 8) Footwear must be worn to school, and students are encouraged to wear socks. Students wearing shorts, skirts, or skorts must wear socks which are either white, black, khaki, navy, gray, or the designated school color.
- 9) Slippers, sandals, backless shoes, or flip-flops are not acceptable.
- 10) Body piercing (except for the ears) that is visible will be prohibited. (Example: nose, lips, tongue, eyebrows, etc.)
- 11) Students will not be allowed to wear ornate or cumbersome jewelry.
- 12) Optional: The name and/or logo of the school may be professionally sewn/printed on any shirt, sweatshirt, or approved outerwear. No other emblem or writing, other than the school's name may be on any shirt, sweatshirt or outerwear.
- 13) New students to the parish will be given two (2) weeks from the date of enrollment to obtain the required uniform.

SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

Special Event days in which students are not required to wear uniforms are permitted, if approved by the principal.

HAND-MADE UNIFORMS

Parents/Guardians may obtain patterns for approved uniform style items and hand-make such items.

STUDENT GROOMING REGULATIONS

1. Student's hair must be groomed in such a manner that it will not draw undue attention. Only naturally occurring hair colors are allowed (black, brunette, auburn, or blonde -- natural or dyed).

2. Faces must be kept neat, both in the case of boys with facial hair or girls with excessive make-up.
3. Basic to the grooming code is a commitment to neat, well-groomed students with personal hygiene and cleanliness being mandatory.

NOTE: For further clarification, in all questions regarding grooming and dress, if the administration decides that the student's attire or appearance is disruptive of the learning process, or so offensive or suggestive as to distract other students, then the attire or appearance will not be allowed.

GROOM AND DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS CONSEQUENCES

GRADES K- 12

FIRST OFFENSE: Record in grade book, warned (student should be sent to the office to call home to correct the infraction).

SECOND OFFENSE: Dress code letter sent to parent, an appropriate school consequence, and correction of infraction.

THIRD OFFENSE: Office referral, parent conference required, and correction of infraction.

FOURTH OFFENSE: Office referral, parent notification, Saturday school or in-school disciplinary action, and correction of infraction.

FIFTH OFFENSE: Office referral, parent notification, one (1) day out-of-school suspension, and correction of infraction.

SIXTH OFFENSE

OR MORE: One (1) day out-of-school suspension with a mandatory parent conference.

Repeated violations of this policy will result in appropriate action, including but not limited to, referral to court for violation of the compulsory attendance laws.

Revised: June 1996

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Revised: September 2001

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Revised: September 2010

Ref: Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt; 460 F. 2d 609 (5th Cir. 1972); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.9, 17:81, 17:416.7; Board minutes, 6-18-96, 5-4-99, 5-18-99, 5-16-00, 6-20-00, 10-3-00, 10-17-00, 9-18-01, 4-21-09, 09-21-10.