

SCHOOL UNIFIED DRESS

IN THE BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DRESS IN A WAY THAT WILL SHOW RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES AS WELL AS OTHERS. THEREFORE, DRESS, MANNERS, GENERAL GROOMING AND CONDUCT OF STUDENTS SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS. THIS POLICY AUTHORIZES INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS AND CENTERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER PARTICIPATION IN A SCHOOL-WIDE UNIFIED DRESS PROGRAM WOULD BEST SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THEIR PARTICULAR STUDENTS. THE RULES IN THIS POLICY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE DISTRICT'S ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT, DRESS CODE.

AUTHORITY: F.S. 1001.41

Policy Adopted: 8/28/69

Policy Readopted: 9/5/74

Rules Readopted: 7/17/01; 6/17/97; 12/13/05; 3/4/08

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DEFINITIONS:

Exception: An allowed exclusion on a day-by-day basis.

Exemption: A complete release granted by the participating school from wearing the mandatory unified dress.

Unified Dress: A pre-determined color and/or style of clothing for both tops and bottoms that will be worn by all students at the designated school. The determination of the unified dress will be collaboratively decided upon by staff and families through a School Advisory Council recommendation.

RULES

1. ALL SCHOOLS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SCHOOL-WIDE MANDATORY UNIFIED DRESS PROGRAM, IF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

- a. At least a 66 2/3 percent vote from the parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school show that they are in favor of participating in a school-wide mandatory program. "Parents/guardians" mean each household will be allowed one vote.
- b. If a school is no longer interested in participating in a school-wide mandatory unified dress program, a school-wide vote must be conducted and at least a 66 2/3 percent vote from the parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school must agree that they are in favor of no longer participating in the wearing of unified dress. "Parents/guardians" mean each household will be allowed one vote.
- c. A new vote of parents shall occur no sooner than every three years to determine whether to adopt or discontinue a unified dress program.
- d. The Principal and School Advisory Council (SAC) are responsible for planning and implementing guidelines and procedures for participating in the mandatory unified dress program, including: (1) specifying and publicizing the date(s), time(s) and location(s) for the vote; and, (2) insuring that unified dress designs are suitable for a public school environment. Schools shall offer an array of sources for unified dress and shall not limit the parent's options to just one source.
- e. Unified dress selected by the school must comply with applicable provisions of the Code of Student Conduct.
- f. The school must make provisions for those students who, by reason of financial hardship, cannot comply with the mandatory unified dress policy and must notify parents of these provisions during planning and implementation.
- g. Exceptions to wearing the mandatory unified dress are permitted when:
 - (1) Uniforms of a nationally recognized youth organization, such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, are worn on scheduled meeting days.

- (2) A student wears a costume or special clothing necessary for a school activity/play or other school-sponsored program, as permitted by the principal.
 - (3) A student's parent/guardian has secured an exemption from the mandatory unified dress policy by following the procedures set forth in Rule 3 below.
2. Parents/Guardians shall be made aware of a school's participation in a mandatory unified dress program and their options on an annual basis. Further, all registration packets for new students shall include information pertaining to the mandatory unified dress program.
3. Parents/guardians may request exemptions for their students from participation in the mandatory unified dress program, and shall be informed by the principal, in writing, of the following procedure in this regard:
 - a. Parents/guardians may request an application for exemption from the current school (Appendix A).
 - b. An application for exemption must be made annually.
 - c. The application for exemption must be completed in full and must be submitted to the school principal within the first ten (10) school days of a student's initial attendance.
 - d. The school principal (or a designated school administrator) shall communicate with the parents to discuss the unified dress policy and the nature of the request for the exemption. The purpose of this communication shall include:
 - (1) Ensuring that the parents/guardians understand the unified dress policy and its intent.
 - (2) Verifying the accuracy of the information on the application for an exemption.
 - e. The principal's response in this regard shall be transmitted to the parents/guardians in writing via the Application For Exemption form within ten (10) school days of submission.
4. All rights accorded to parents/guardians in this regard are transferred to students at the age of 18 (School Board Policy 5100).
5. Each school instituting a mandatory unified dress policy, with the support and participation of its SAC, shall encourage compliance with the unified dress policy.
6. The mandatory unified dress program shall be subject to review/evaluation by the school district to determine its impact at three-year intervals beginning with the 2007-08 school year.
7. Violations of the unified dress policy shall be subject to the same consequences as violations of the dress code policy. It should not be a violation of the unified dress policy if a student wears a button, armband, or other accoutrement to exercise the right to freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment and applicable School Board policies. Any buttons, armbands, or other accoutrements must comply with the standards set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. (Clothing, jewelry buttons haircuts, or other items or markings which are suggestive, revealing, or indecent, associated with gangs or cults, encourage the use of drugs, alcohol, or violence, or support discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, linguistic differences, marital status, national origin, race religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or for any other reason are not allowed.)
8. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop administrative guidelines and procedures to implement this policy.
9. The School Board, as aligned with Policy 1403, will not grant a release from any part of this policy.

Appendix A

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
MANDATORY SCHOOL UNIFIED DRESS PROGRAM

(School Name)

APPLICATION FOR UNIFIED DRESS EXEMPTION

Parents/guardians requesting an exemption from participating in a school-wide unified dress program must complete this application form, in full, and return it to the principal of the school. * The principal's response will be transmitted to you on this same form within ten school days.

I REQUEST AN EXEMPTION FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL UNIFIED DRESS PROGRAM.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Household Street Address _____

Student(s) Name(s) - Please Print:

_____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____

* The school must make provisions for those students who, by reason of financial hardship, cannot comply with the mandatory unified dress program.

-----PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSE-----
Comments:

Principal _____
(Please print name.)

Approved Denied _____
(Principal's Signature) (Date)