

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Standardized Dress Grades K-12
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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1317.3 2. 22 PA Code 12.11 3. Pol. 325
Adopted	November 12, 2015

### **Purpose**

The Board recognizes the right of students to freedom of expression, both in speech and the wearing of apparel, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Board also recognizes its obligation to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the students who attend its schools.

The Board further recognizes its responsibility to maintain a positive learning environment in the schools under its jurisdiction and to minimize the opportunity for student distraction and/or disruption.

The Board believes that a standardized student dress code will help address issues related to the health, safety and welfare of the students attending its schools and will further aid in the maintenance of a positive learning environment.

### **Authority**

The Board has the authority to impose limitations on students' dress in school.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to enforce school regulations limiting student dress in order to:

1. Increase school safety and provide for the health and welfare of its students.
2. Promote a positive school environment that focuses on instruction and learning.
3. Foster school pride and school spirit.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technical education, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.[\[2\]](#)

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

Students have the responsibility to maintain good hygiene and clean clothing. School officials may impose limitations on student participation in the regular instructional program when there is evidence that a lack of cleanliness constitutes a health hazard.[\[2\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy, which designate the building principal or designee to monitor student dress in order to ensure compliance with this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all school rules implementing this policy impose only the minimum necessary restrictions on the exercise of the student's taste and individuality.[2]

Staff members shall be instructed to demonstrate, by example, positive attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.[3]

Parents/Guardians must be mindful that student dress that may be distracting and/or disruptive to the learning process will not be tolerated. Violations of this policy and the standardized dress code will be addressed in accordance with established rules and regulations.

School administrators have the final responsibility for interpretation and enforcement of this policy and the standardized dress code. School administrators may give permission for students to dress outside the parameters of this policy and the dress code on planned or special occasions. Examples of such may include, but are not limited to, field trips, pep assemblies and approved fundraisers; however, student dress on such days shall still be consistent with the intent and spirit of this policy.

## **Guidelines**

### **Transfer Students**

Upon enrolling in the district, new students will be granted a grace period of one (1) calendar week before being required to fully conform to this policy and the standardized dress code; however, all dress must comply with the spirit and intent of this policy and the district retains the right to regulate the dress of any such student.

### **Opt-Out Statement**

Religious/Medical/Special Needs Exemption: If the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student has what they consider to be a bona fide religious belief or medical or special needs situation which precludes strict adherence to this policy and the standardized dress code, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may fill out the appropriate waiver form and submit all other documentation reasonably requested by the administration to establish their exemption.

Parents/Guardians requesting an exemption will be required to meet with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the nature of the circumstance necessitating a waiver. Following the meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall render a written decision, approving or denying the requested waiver.

Any exemption granted by the Superintendent or designee shall be limited to the minimum variance necessary in light of the specific, bona fide religious, medical, or special needs situation, which precludes strict compliance. The exception as allowed will be clearly stated. Paperwork regarding the request for exemption shall be filed in the office of the building principal.

### **Economic Hardship/Crisis Situations**

Families may qualify under certain income guidelines for a standardized dress subsidy. The district shall develop and maintain a system to provide limited financial assistance to families demonstrating a financial hardship resulting from compliance with this policy, while guarding the privacy of each student. Appropriate forms and information will be available from the building principal or designee, and the family must file a new application each year.

Last Modified by Debra Duff on January 21, 2016