

## STUDENT DRESS

In cooperation with teachers, students and parents/guardians, the principal or designee shall establish school rules governing student dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Governing Board policy and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

Student dress guidelines exist for reasons of safety and decency. Clothing and the manner in which it is worn shall be sufficient to prevent distractions and disruptions to the educational process.

Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to approved hats/headgear, for outdoor use during the school day.

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. Site administrators may determine specific prohibitions for unsafe footwear. (For example, flip-flops, backless shoes, or sandals are not acceptable at the elementary or middle school levels.)
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
3. Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors, and head gear worn outdoors must be school affiliated and/or approved by school administration.
4. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fish-net fabrics; halter tops; spaghetti straps; off-the-shoulder, strapless or low-cut tops; bare midriffs; and distracting, revealing, and/or inappropriately short skirts or shorts are prohibited. Pants must fit and be worn near the waist and in a manner that conceals undergarments.
5. Clothing (gloves, bandannas, shoes, shoestrings, wristbands, jewelry, etc.) and the manner in which it is worn shall not indicate any relationship to a formal/informal gang/group that could be associated with causing harm to self on and/or off campus. Clothing shall not provoke others to act violently, incite or intimidate others by fear of violence.
6. Except as directed by administration, school gym shorts may not be worn in classes other than physical education.
7. Hair shall be clean and groomed in a manner that is not deemed distracting or disruptive by administration.

Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control.

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

If a dress violation is observed, the principal or designee shall confer with the student.

If it is determined that a violation exists, the student shall be asked to remove the clothing, jewelry, or other prohibited items. The items shall be retained until the end of the school day or another appropriate time. At such time, the items shall be returned to the student and the student shall be directed not to wear, or return to school with the items in the future. If removal of the clothing may prove embarrassing to the student, the principal or designee may provide alternate clothing to be worn to complete the day; call parents to bring new appropriate clothing; or direct the student to return home to change the clothing. Prior to sending a student home, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified.

Any student who repeatedly violates the dress code, or refuses to follow administrator direction regarding the dress code, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

#### Gang-Related Apparel

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus.

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received.

#### Uniforms

The district uniform policy is in effect for all elementary schools. Middle schools wishing to follow the uniform policy may do so. The principal, staff and parents/guardians of the individual school shall jointly support the uniform policy. If middle schools wish to follow the district uniform policy all related procedures must be followed.

At least six months before a school uniform policy is implemented, the principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy. Parents/guardians shall also be informed of their right to have their child exempted.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for determining student eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms.

The Superintendent or designee may establish a method for recycling or exchanging uniforms as students grow out of them.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be allowed to wear organization uniforms on days when the organization has a scheduled meeting.

Each school shall develop activities to encourage full compliance with the uniform policy.

### Student Uniforms

School student uniform programs may be implemented at school sites where the parents of two thirds (2/3) of the students vote to institute a school uniform. Guidelines for implementation of this policy on student uniforms are listed below.

#### A. Timelines/Procedures for Implementation

##### 1. September/October

Schools establish a school uniform committee and explore the idea of student uniforms with staff, parents, and students at the beginning of the school year prior to the school year of possible implementation.

##### 2. October/November

Information surveys [AR 5132(a) or similar formats] distributed to parents; results collated and analyzed.

##### 3. October/November/December

Parent and student forums scheduled to provide information about (a) the laws regulating uniforms, (b) the reasons uniforms are being considered, (c) the results of uniform implementation in other schools, and (d) uniform dress options.

##### 4. November/December/January

Schools are encouraged to involve representative students in uniform information forums and uniform discussions.

##### 5. January

Parent uniform survey ballots [AR 5132(b)] distributed; school ballot results compiled by principal and recorded on School Student Uniform Survey Report [AR 5132(c)].

Ballots shall be distributed, one per child enrolled, and shall be cast for the school the child is currently attending. The school uniform committee shall determine whether the parents of transition grade students (5th, 8th, 12th) shall be included in the voting process.

Schools shall make a substantial effort to gain a response for every ballot distributed in order to have input from as many parents as possible.

The school uniform committee reviews survey results to determine if a school student uniform plan will be adopted for the following school year, a two-thirds majority of the ballots cast is required for uniform program implementation.

6. By January 31  
Principal submits School Student Uniform Survey Report (AR 5132(c)) to Superintendent.
7. January/February  
School Uniform Committee finalizes school student uniform plan (AR 5132(d)) specifying:
  - a. Style, type, color, and cost range of student uniform;
  - b. Stores or vendors where uniforms may be purchased;
  - c. Plans for school sales of uniforms, if any;
  - d. Person(s) responsible and plans for (1) helping families in need of financial assistance and (2) recycling uniforms within the school community.
  - e. Communication timelines and contents to notify parents of school student uniform plan.
8. By February 15  
School Student Uniform Plan [AR 5132(d)] submitted to Superintendent for review by District Safety-Uniform Committee.
9. By March 1  
Schools distribute parent notice regarding implementation of School Student Uniform Plan in September of following school year.

B. Parent Information Dissemination

Initial notification, annual notification, and new enrollee notification shall include:

1. types and colors of uniform;
2. requirements for jackets/outer garments;
3. optional articles of attire or shoe restrictions, 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;
7. notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles;
8. notice of school (or district) uniform sales events, if any.

In addition to the initial/annual written notifications, schools are encouraged to communicate with parents about school student uniform requirements and the benefits and positive results of the uniform program through:

1. district newsletters;
2. school newsletters;
3. parent forums;
4. telephonic notification or through use of a telephone hotline;
5. PTA meetings and newsletters;
6. parent advisory meetings;
7. television, radio, and/or newspaper announcements;
8. posters displayed at school and in the community;
9. registration materials.

Notices/reminders about school uniform requirements shall be provided to parents at the beginning of the school year, prior to December holiday shopping and in the spring. Parents of students enrolling in a uniform school, including intra and inter district transfers, shall be fully informed of the uniform policy requirements at the time of enrollment.

### C. Financial Considerations

No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear a uniform by reason of financial hardship.

Each School Student Uniform Plan [AR 5132(d)] shall include:

1. A specific staff member or school volunteer to assist those families in need of assistance;
2. The form and type of assistance to be provided for school families in cases of financial hardship; and
3. A flyer describing in details the uniform.

Each school shall work with staff, the local school community and business partners to identify resources for assisting families.

The District shall compile and maintain a list of community agencies, uniform retailers, organizations and individuals willing to assist families in need.

#### D. Compliance

Students are expected to wear uniforms daily. No student shall be considered noncompliance with the policy in the following instances:

1. When noncompliance derives from financial hardship.
2. When a student wears a button, armband or other accoutrement to exercise the right to freedom of expression as provided by Education Code 48907, unless the button, armband or other accoutrement signifies or is related to gangs, gang membership or gang activity as provided by Education Code 35183.
3. When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.
4. When wearing a school uniform violates a student's sincerely held religious belief.
5. When a student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the uniform policy by following the procedures set forth in Section E.

A student who ordinarily wears the school uniform, but who comes to school in other attire, must bring a note, written by his/her parent or guardian, explaining why the student is out of uniform on that particular day. When a student does not wear a uniform, he/she shall be expected to wear an outfit as close to a uniform as possible. Should the student come to school without a note, the school staff may:

1. allow the student to follow the regular class schedule with the understanding that a note from his/her parent or guardian will be brought to school on the next school day [AR 5132(e) may be used for parent notification];
2. provide the student with temporary uniform attire;
3. with parent consent, send the student home to change.

In the event that a student does not comply with the above requirement, the parent shall be contacted and the issue resolved. Enforcement of the Uniform Policy shall continue through summer school sessions unless determined otherwise by the site uniform committee.

#### E. Exemptions

Because of the importance of full campus participation in the uniform program for health and safety, all students are expected to wear uniforms. If the parents desire to exempt their child from the uniform policy, the parents must observe the following procedure annually:

1. Request from the school site an Application for Exemption from Uniform Program [AR 5132(f)].
2. Complete the Application in full and submit it to the designated site administrator for uniform program exemptions at the student's school within the first ten days of the

school year, or within the first ten days following enrollment if enrollment takes place during the school year. No applications for uniform exemptions will be accepted after this deadline.

3. Meet with the designated site administrator to discuss the uniform policy, and the nature of the parent or guardian's objections to the policy. The purposes of this meeting include (1) ensuring that the parents understand the reasons for, and goals of, the uniform policy (2) verifying the accuracy of the information on the Application and (3) emphasizing the importance of the uniform policy for campus safety and positive school climate. If after the meeting with the administrator, the parents still wish to pursue a uniform exemption, they will be referred to the district office.
4. Meet with the designated district level administrator to discuss the purposes of the uniform policy, the final process for obtaining an exemption, and the restrictions set forth in the Student Dress Code Policy (BP5132). The district administrator will also stress the importance of the uniform policy for campus safety: student discipline, security and academic focus: and positive school climate.
5. Parents must submit exemption applications within the first ten days as indicated in #2 above, and complete meetings with site and district administrators and obtain district approval of an exemption within the first four weeks of school (or enrollment for new students) in order to be in effect for the school year.
6. In lieu of an in-person meeting, parent may request a conference by telephone. Whenever possible, parent requests to exempt their students from the uniform policy shall be resolved at the site level.

#### F. Evaluation

Schools will participate in an evaluation at the end of each school year for the first three years of the uniform program plan. Thereafter, the evaluation of the uniform program may be scheduled every three years [AR 5132(g) or a similar survey.]

Each school shall complete its respective evaluation and submit the results to the District by the close of the school year. The schools and the District shall review the results of the evaluations and shall consider the need for a new vote on the issue.

If a parent survey indicates that a substantial number of parents (33% or more) are dissatisfied with an adopted uniform program, then the principal shall arrange for parent forums to explore the problems, and the uniform committee shall consider the need for a new vote on the issue.

G. Uniform guidelines

1. The school uniform committee shall determine the style, type and colors of the student uniforms. Sweaters, sweatshirts, vests, and other extra garments shall conform to uniform specifications. Jackets, coats and other outside outer wear shall not be subject to specific uniform styles and colors, and shall conform to the Student Dress Policy BP 5132.)
2. The school uniform committee may elect to use established district uniform Guidelines in order to maintain consistency across the district and from one level to the next. The district uniform Guidelines are as follows:
  - a. All school clothing standards and Guidelines shall conform to the MUSD Student Dress Policy BP 5132;
  - b. All clothing must be neat, clean and in good repair;
  - c. Professional and/or collegiate team logo jackets are strongly discouraged due to possible gang affiliation associated with these emblems and may be prohibited on an individual site basis.
  - d. Acceptable colors are: Navy, White, Khaki, Red - on any garment and may not be faded navy blue;
  - e. All Shirts/blouses must have sleeves; no T-shirts except with school logo;
  - f. Sweaters, sweatshirts/pant & vests are acceptable in the above colors. Jackets and outside outerwear shall not be subject to uniform colors;
  - g. No hats/caps except with approved school logo;
  - h. Shoes must have closed heels and toes;
  - i. Pants and belts must fit and be worn at the waist;
  - j. Walking shorts are to be no shorter than mid-thigh and not longer than the top of the knee;
  - k. Unacceptable uniform garments include: jeans, plaids, baggy and/or saggy pants, belt buckles with initials/insignia;
  - l. Unacceptable are any items/articles of clothing that are unsafe, gang-related or disruptive to the educational program.

Revised: August 27, 2008

(Revised: October 2004)

(Revised: August 2004)

(Revised: May 2002)

(Adopted: October 1989)

(Replaces: AR 5132.1 Student Uniforms)

(Revised: April 21, 1999)

(Adopted: January 11, 1995)