

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

The Board and administration recognize the importance of the rights and privileges of each individual student in the school district. However, the Board equally recognizes that individual rights stop where the rights of the group (the school) begin, and no student has the right to dress or appear in a manner which is substantially disruptive of the teaching-learning process.

The Board recognizes that it is the responsibility of parents and students to use good judgment in one's total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the purposes of school. Cleanliness should be the basic consideration. For health and safety reasons, students must wear shoes to school.

When the dress, appearance, or actions of an individual substantially disrupts the teaching process, the principal has the authority to take disciplinary actions regarding such dress, appearance, and behavior.

In addition to the above, the following specific policies apply:

- Grades 9-12: Purses and book bags are possible hiding places for drugs and/or weapons. Therefore, purses should be no larger than 8" X 10" and book bags must be mesh or clear plastic.

- K-6: Shorts: Where wider discretion may be employed for K-2, it is recommended that knee-length shorts be worn in grades 3-6.

Tops: Halter, tank, tube or any other top which exposes bare portions of the body, including midriff, back, etc., should not be worn.

Mesh Shirts: Mesh shirts in which the body is clearly visible should not be worn unless worn over a T-shirt.

Head Wear: No hats of any description should be worn in the building.

Suggestive Clothing and Jewelry: Clothing and jewelry bearing distasteful and provocative slogans including drug, alcohol, or tobacco advertisements should not be worn to school.

Mini-dresses or Mini-Skirts: Both are discouraged in all grades; however, it is recommended that this type dress not be worn by fifth and sixth grade students.

SOURCE: Clarke County Board of Education, Grove Hill, AL

ADOPTED: November 3, 1987; REVISED: May 7, 1992

LEGAL REF.: Griffin v. Tatum, 425 F. 2d 201 (5th Cir., 1970); Karr v. Schmidt, 560 F. 2d 609 (1972).

CLARKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS MANDATORY UNIFORM DRESS POLICY

I. BACKGROUND

A safe disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a good school. Young people who feel safe and secure, who learn basic American values and the essential of good citizenship are better students. Over the past four years, parents, school officials, teachers, and students have urged the Board of Education to adopt a uniform dress policy. The Board believes there will be a variety of benefits for students in implementing this policy. Some of the reasons given are the increase in the students' sense of membership in the school community, improving the students self image, a reduction in the difference between the "have" and the "have-nots", improve focus on school work, decreasing violence and theft, prevent gang members from wearing gang colors and insignia, improve discipline, and reduced cost for the family.

II. STATEMENT AND TYPE OF POLICY

The Clarke County Public School System mandatory Uniform Dress Policy will become effective for the 1998-99 school year. All elementary, middle, and high schools shall be in compliance August 18, 1998. The term "school" used throughout this policy shall mean all elementary, middle and high schools in the Clarke County Public School System. The term "Board" refers to the Clarke County Board of Education.

Each school will determine the appropriate uniform, and programs for financial assistance to promote compliance. In implementing the school uniform dress policy, the Board expects the principal(s) and faculty of the school to work very closely with students and members of the total community to structure open communication to be responsive to the students and parents specific needs.

Each school shall submit in writing their proposed uniform dress code to the Board for approval by the 1st of March each year for the next school year.

After Board approval of uniform dress code, each school shall notify parents prior to the last day of the school year.

III. COMMENCEMENT OF UNIFORM DRESS POLICY

The mandatory uniform dress policy shall be implemented by August 18th of the 1998-1999 school year and complied with by September 18, 1998. Each year thereafter, the mandatory uniform dress policy shall be in compliance the first day of school for students. Each school shall decide what 10 days during the school year that you will give your students the opportunity of not wearing uniforms. These 10 days will not include student participants wearing "special" uniforms for school activities during the regular school day. For example: choir, band, athletics, etc.

IV. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

- A. It is the responsibility of each school to adequately communicate to parents information common to all school sites, including general guidelines for enforcement of the uniform dress policy.
- B. Each school shall communicate to parents information specific to the individual school sites, including:
 - 1. Types and colors of uniform
 - 2. Requirements for jackets/outer garments
 - 3. Compliance measures to be employed
 - 4. The availability of any financial support/clothes bank or any other form of assistance
 - 5. Methods to facilitate recycling of uniform within the school community
 - 6. Notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles.
- C. The means by which this information is communicated shall include one or more of the following:
 - 1. System wide newsletters
 - 2. School newsletters
 - 3. Parent forums
 - 4. Telephone 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

V. COMPLIANCE MEASURES

Disciplinary action will be taken to enforce compliance with policy. Reasonable accommodation will be made for religious beliefs if such accommodation will not unduly interfere with the effective functioning of the school day.

Compliance Component of the Uniform Dress Policy

Violation is to break a law, intentionally or unintentionally.

1st Violation: (K-12)

Warning - Student receives verbal warning and the parent /guardian will be notified of infraction.

2nd Violation: (K-12)

The parent/guardian will be asked to come to the school with the child for a conference with the principal or the principal's designee.

3rd Violation: Elementary (K-6)

The student, dressed in compliance of uniform policy, must return to school accompanied by parent/guardian. At this time, parent/guardian must attend a conference with the principal or principal's designee

If the child does not return to school in proper uniform within three consecutive days, on the third day the student and parent(s)/guardian names will be given to the juvenile probation officer for further investigation.

High School (7-12)

The parent/guardian will be notified of the violation and the student will be placed in alternative school for two days. The parent/ guardian must come to the school for a conference with the principal or the principal's designee at the end of the alternative school.

4th Violation: (K -12)

The parent/guardian will be notified to come to the school for a conference concerning the above violations. The student will be given a mandatory three day at home suspension.

5th Violation: (K -12)

The case will be referred to the Clarke County Board of Education for a student/parent hearing.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Beginning with 1998-1999 school year, each school is required to participate in a survey of the program at the end of the regular school year. At the end of the third consecutive school year, an evaluation of the mandatory uniform dress policy shall be conducted by the Board.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for designing an evaluation system-wide form to be used. Each school shall complete the form and return the completed form to the Superintendent's office by April 15th. The school system shall review the results of the evaluations, and the Board shall consider proposed modifications to the uniform dress policy as appropriate.

SOURCE: Clarke County Board of Education, Grove Hill, AL
ADOPTED : July 30, 1998; REVISED: September 28, 2000