

Uniform Policy

I. Statement of Policy

The Norwich Board of Education has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire can enhance educational interests, including the following:

1. Creating a greater sense of community, school pride and respect among students.
2. Reducing distractions and loss of self-esteem caused by teasing and competition over clothing.
3. Fostering a safer school environment with easy identification of students at school activities, group gatherings and walking to and from school.
4. Reducing parental cost of school clothing.
5. Reducing peer pressure for wearing brand name apparel.
6. Enhancing school safety by making it harder to conceal weapons and contraband.
7. Creating an atmosphere reflecting seriousness of purpose about education.
8. Minimizing disruption from wearing inappropriate clothing or possessing inappropriate items in school.

II Uniform

A. Students shall wear the following during school hours:

1. Blue or khaki colored jumpers, skirts (not more than 3” above the knee), pants or knee length shorts, sized to fit the student. Pants and shorts must be “dress” or “docker” style.
2. Blue or white shirts must be worn. Shirts must have a collar and may be button down/oxford or polo style. Shirt hems must reach to waistline when arms are raised. Sleeves may be long or short.
3. Sweaters or sweatshirts are optional, but if worn must be solid blue or white in color or contain the district/school insignia or name. Hoods may not be worn within the school building.

B. Inappropriate Attire

The following are considered inappropriate for all students to wear during regular school hours or at school-sponsored events:

1. All sweat pants, jeans, spandex or any color denim/canvas/jean material, and all cargo-style pants, shirts, shorts, or skorts.
2. Tank tops, undershirts, tee-shirts, halter tops, tube tops, bare midriffs, transparent clothing, plunging revealing or provocative

necklines (front and back), shirts containing expressive writing or pajamas.

3. Outer coats, fleece jackets, wind breakers, hats, caps, scarves, earmuffs, bandannas, sunglasses are prohibited indoors.
4. Any item of clothing or an accessory that could cause danger or distraction.
5. Clothing or items that contain messages or images that would tend to be offensive or disruptive to the educational process, including, but not limited to, items with indications of gang affiliations, racist messages, sexist messages, messages promoting drug or alcohol abuse, profane or pornographic messages or illustrations, or messages that incite violence or constitute “fighting words”.
6. Bare feet, bedroom slippers, crocs or open toe shoes, shower style flip flops, slides, roller blades, roller skates, or any footwear that marks floors or has wheels, causes excessive noise, or creates a safety hazard.

III. Parental Responsibility

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that their child’s dress conforms to the requirements of this policy.

IV. Staff Responsibility

School personnel, including substitutes, will serve as role models for proper attire in the educational setting. Personnel will dress professionally during the school day.

V. Administrative Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Administration to inform all parents and guardians of the Uniform Policy.

VI. Accommodations

1. Where the bona fide religious beliefs, health needs or with identified special needs with accommodations of a student conflict with the Uniform Policy, the schools will provide reasonable accommodation. Any student or parent or guardian desiring accommodation shall notify the school principal in writing or via a PPT of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of the student’s bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.
2. It is the policy of the Norwich Public Schools that no student will be denied an education due to a bona fide financial inability to obtain clothing that complies with the Uniform Policy. Any student or parent or guardian for whom compliance with the Uniform Policy poses a bona

bona fide financial burden, may submit a written request for clothing assistance to the school principal specifying the clothing needed together with a statement of financial need. Where the request is bona fide, school principals or their designees shall try to connect parents and guardians with available community resources to locate adequate clothing, and until such clothing is obtained, the student shall be excused from complying with the Uniform Policy.

3. Nothing in this policy is intended to violate Board of Education Policy 5121 (Student Non-Discrimination).

Anyone who has questions or concerns about this policy, or would like a copy of the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination, may contact:

**Assistant Superintendent, 90 Town Street, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 823-6284**

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of gender/sex may contact the Board's Title IX Coordinator:

**Assistant Superintendent, 90 Town Street, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 823-6284**

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability may contact the Board's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Director of Student Services and Special Education, 90 Town Street,
Norwich, CT 06360 (860) 823-6284**

VII. Compliance

School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with the requirements of the Uniform Policy. However, when a student fails to comply with the Uniform Policy, discipline is appropriate. The following disciplinary procedures shall apply:

- A. First Offense-**Administrative conference with the student and the parent/guardian.
- B. Second Offense-**Written warning and notification to parent or guardian.

C. Third and Subsequent Offenses-Disciplinary procedures including after school detention(s) will be administered.

Policy Adopted: June 9, 2009
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NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norwich, Connecticut