

Students

Dress and Grooming

Uniform Policy

Grades PreK – 5 (2009-2010)

Grades 6-8 (2010-2011)

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

The following uniform is mandatory for all students of the Norwich Public Schools effective at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. The purpose of this Policy is the further the important educational interests identified above.

A. Girls 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. Shorts may be worn from April 1 to November 1 only. Pants and shorts must be “dress” or “docker” style. No jeans or cargo shorts may be worn.
2. Blue shirts must be worn. Shirts must have a collar and may be button down/oxford or polo style. Shirts must be tucked into pants or shorts. Hem must reach to waistline when arms are raised. Sleeves may be long or short. No tee shirts may be worn.

3. Sweaters or sweatshirts without hoods or pockets are optional, but if worn must be solid in color or contain the school insignia or name.
4. Footwear that causes noisy distractions, high heels which can cause safety hazards or footwear which causes marks on floors are not permitted.

B. Boys shall wear the following during school hours:

1. Blue or khaki colored pants or knee-length shorts. Shorts may be worn from April 1 to November 1 only. Pants and shorts must be “dress” or “docked” style. No jeans or cargo shorts may be worn.
2. Blue shirts must be worn. Shirts must have a collar and may be button down/oxford or polo style. All shirts must be tucked into pants or shorts. Hem must reach to waistline when arms are raised.
3. Sweaters or sweatshirts without hoods or pockets are optional, but if worn must be solid in color or contain the school insignia or name.
4. Footwear that causes noisy distractions, high heels which can cause safety hazards or footwear that causes marks on floors are not permitted.

Inappropriate Attire

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

1. All clothing made of sweat, spandex or any color denim/canvas/jean material, and all cargo-style pants, shirts, shorts, or skirts.
2. Tank tops, undershirts, tee-shirts, halter tops, tube tops, bare midriffs, transparent clothing, plunging revealing or provocative necklines (front and back), hooded shirts and shirts containing expressive writing or pajamas.
3. Any clothing that is torn or ragged. Any clothing that is too tight or too loose.
4. Outer coats, fleecy jackets, wind breakers, hats, caps, scarves, earmuffs, bandannas, curlers, goggles, sunglasses and backpacks are prohibited indoors.
5. Oversized jewelry, chains, medallions, and earrings, or wallet/key chains causing danger or distraction.
6. 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.”
7. Bare feet, bedroom slippers, shower style flip flops, roller blades, roller skates, or any footwear that marks floors, 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, and the information regarding the Uniform Policy shall be available in English, Spanish, Creole, and Chinese in the Student Handbook and on the Norwich Public School's web site and in such other places as the administration deems suitable to reach all parents and guardians.

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 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.

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.

VIII. Administrative Review

A student who believes that his or her school has not reasonably accommodated his or her bona fide religious, health, special education accommodations or financial needs or right of free expression may submit a written objection on their own or through his or her parents/guardians to the school's principal. The principal shall respond in writing to the student and his or her parents/guardians within fourteen (14) days. Any student or parent/guardian dissatisfied with the principal's response may submit a written appeal to the Superintendent of Schools for the Norwich Public Schools. The Superintendent may request such additional information from the school, the student, and/or the parents/guardians as he or she deems necessary. The Superintendent shall issue a written decision on the appeal within twenty-one (21) days.

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