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## **Student Dress Code (Uniform Policy)**

Guidelines for acceptable, normal, good grooming should be taught and enforced in the home by the parents as part of their responsibility in training their children for responsible citizenship.

All students are expected to be responsible in their dress and grooming by avoiding extremes and manifesting self-discipline with regards to these regulations. Cooperation of parents is expected.

The policy of the Calcasieu Parish School Board shall be that no mode of attire shall be considered proper for school wear that distracts or disrupts classroom and school decorum. The Board feels it is the responsibility of each student to use good judgment in one's total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the purpose of school. Cleanliness shall be a basic consideration. For health and safety reasons, students must wear shoes to school.

In questions regarding student dress and grooming, the principal or his/her designee of each school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided.

### **NOTIFICATION**

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date.

If the Board modifies the existing uniform policy, it shall notify, in writing the parent or guardian of each student of the policy adoption or uniform policy modification at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy. Each school shall display any uniform selected for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective date for wearing of the uniform.



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However, nothing shall prohibit the Board from requiring a new or revised dress code or uniform policy without the required notice in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this policy, *emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

### BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann.

[§14:95.9](#). School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

*Body armor* shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

The School Board shall notify all students of the provisions of this policy.

### SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Students attending Pre-K-12 schools in Calcasieu Parish shall be required to wear official school uniforms. Uniforms shall be the same for all schools, as follows:

- Uniform shirts will be white, hunter green or navy blue polo/golf style shirts (short or long sleeves with a collar) or shirts that button down the front with a collar. No



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emblem, logo, decoration, or decorative trim is allowed. High school and middle school administrators have the option to choose a uniform shirt in one of the school's colors.

- White, hunter green or navy blue, turtlenecks with no emblem, logo, decoration, or decorative trim are acceptable. Turtlenecks can be worn separately or under uniform shirt.
- T-shirts (solid white, hunter green, or navy blue) will be allowed under the uniform shirt.
- Spirit shirt/club shirt may be worn on day/s determined by the school administrator.
- Administrators may option to have students wear the official school logo on the school's designated shirt.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- Khaki (shades may vary) or navy blue pants, skirts, shorts, skorts, or jumpers must be uniform style and color (no blue jeans, no corduroy or wind-suit materials, no sweat pants, no stretch pants or leggings, no spandex, no baggy pants, no bell-bottoms, no carpenter or cargo styles, no hip-huggers, no side-knee pockets). Emblems, logos, or decorations are not allowed.
- Shorts and skorts must measure (front and back) no shorter than three inches above the knee and no longer than mid-knee. Skirts and jumpers must measure no shorter than three inches above the knee.
- Belts should be black, brown, navy blue, hunter green, or khaki with no emblem, logo or decoration and must be worn with slacks and shorts that are designed to have belt loops. Belts must be visible and worn around the waist. Belts are optional for pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade students.
- Socks (or stockings for girls) are required and should be hunter green, navy blue, khaki or white with no emblem, logo or decoration and must cover ankle and be visible. Middle and high school students are not required to wear socks or stockings with sandals.
- Appropriate shoes must be worn and not include thongs. Sandals are not allowed in elementary grades.



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- Acceptable outerwear for classroom is limited to include sweater, sweater vest, sweatshirt, and light jacket. During class time, jackets are to remain open, not zipped or buttoned. Colors for classroom outerwear include khaki, navy blue, hunter green and white. No emblem, logo, or decoration is allowed on classroom outerwear. The uniform shirt must be worn under outerwear.
- Heavy coats and jackets worn to and from school and/or outdoors are not restricted, but recommended to colors of navy blue, white, khaki and hunter green.
- No head wear shall be worn on campus with the exception of knit caps in extremely cold weather.

#### Other Dress Code Regulations:

- Prohibited items include bandannas, hair rollers, extremes in hair styles, psychedelic hair colors, lines, letters, or designs shaved in the head.
- Sunglasses, nose rings, visible body piercing, and excessive or inappropriate jewelry are prohibited.
- Prohibited items include excessive and inappropriate makeup, painted faces, inappropriate tattoos, and stick-on tattoos.
- Clothing worn is not to be suggestive or indecent.
- Clothing, jewelry, and general appearance are not to be of the type that would cause a disturbance or distract or interfere with the instructional programs.
- Clothing, jewelry, and general appearance are to be such as not to constitute a health or safety hazard.

Principals may declare spirit or club days and allow students to wear school spirit shirts, or dress up days (i.e., when school pictures are scheduled) or allow students to wear other uniforms such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, cheerleaders, band, chorus, etc. Other questions about uniforms should be referred first to the school authorities, then to the central office staff.



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## DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR UNIFORMS

All Pre K-12 schools in Calcasieu Parish will strive to achieve full compliance of the *Dress Code Policy* and should resort to disciplinary measures only when positive measures fail. The intent of this policy is not to prevent any student who is not in uniform from attending school. This policy is not intended to suspend or expel a student from class or from school or lower an academic grade as a result of not complying with the *School Uniform Policy*.

The following is a progressive disciplinary plan for students who are considered non-compliant with the *Dress Code Policy* and who have not been granted an exemption.

### ELEMENTARY:

1st Offense	Written warning
2nd Offense	Phone call to parent/guardian
3rd Offense	Administrator or designee, parents, and student conference.

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL:

1st Offense	Written warning (Handbook)
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2nd Offense                      Phone call to parent/guardian

3rd Offense                      Referral to ISI, C.A.R.E., or detention

Students shall not be considered in violation of the *Dress Code Policy* in the following instances:

- during the first five (5) school days after transferring from an out of the parish school
- when a student has been authorized by the school principal to wear something other than the approved school uniforms.
- when a parent has secured an exemption from the *School Uniform Policy*
- while an appeal of an exemption from the *School Uniform Policy* is pending

Parent(s) or guardian(s) may request an exemption from the *School Uniform Policy* by submitting a written request to the school principal. Exemptions may be granted for religious reasons, medical reasons, or other justifiable reasons.

- A written request shall be submitted in writing using the *Exemption Form*.
- The Review committee shall meet with the parent/guardian to discuss the *School Uniform Policy* and request for exemption.
- The parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the outcome of the conference.
- If the Review Committee does not grant the exemption, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the appropriate Director.



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Revised: May, 2000

Revised: September, 2000

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Revised: July, 2002

Revised: December, 2008

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.9, 17:81, 17:416.7

Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S. 2d 601 (1969)

Karr v. Schmidt, 460 F. 2d 609 (5th Cir. 1972)

Board Minutes, 5-4-99, 6-1-99, 2-1-00, 5-7-02, 6-4-02, 4-21-09, 10-5-10

Calcasieu Parish School Board