

Students

Student Uniforms

The uniform which students must wear is defined as follows:

Navy blue "bottoms". Navy blue pants, skirts, jumpers, and (during hot weather) shorts (finger-tip length or longer). Navy corduroys will be acceptable during cold weather; jeans and sweat pants will not be acceptable at any time.

White "tops"; Navy blue or white sweaters. White long- or short-sleeved shirts or blouses, with collars, and (during cold weather) turtlenecks and solid white sweatshirts. T-shirts, sweatshirts, and blouses with v-necks or ruffles will not be acceptable. Navy blue or white sweaters may also be worn.

Solid color shoes. Belts, shoes and shoelaces must be solid color. Athletic shoes are acceptable if they are all one color, "generic", inexpensive, and do not feature prominent logos, advertising or promotional gimmicks. Socks and stockings may be white or navy.

Student's dress and grooming must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety and decency.

Students' choice of clothing disrupts the learning environment where it may be representative or suggestive of gang affiliation or activities. The Board of Education recognizes that gangs are present in the District's community and pose a real threat to the disruption of schools. "Gang", as the term is used in this policy, is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission, conspiracy or the advocacy of illegal acts. The Board of Education recognizes that clothing which is identifiable as gang-related changes frequently and is, therefore, often difficult to discern.

Students' choice of clothing also disrupts the learning environment where it unduly fosters competition among students for expensive or elaborate clothing or for unnecessarily frequent purchases of new clothing. The Board of Education recognizes the susceptibility of school age children to peer pressure and believes that schools have an important role in teaching children to make sensible clothing decisions, regardless of fashion, and to respect each other without regard to personal attire.

Because the Board of Education has determined that the educational process is likely to be disrupted due to student attire, students shall wear uniforms while in attendance at school or school-related functions. In addition, in those situations where uniforms are not required,

students must at all times wear appropriate clothing while they are at school or school-related functions.

The Board of Education does not intend to censor students' thoughts, expressions of opinion or ideas. Other forms of expression are available to Calumet City students. The intention of the Board of Education is to prohibit substantial interference with or material disruption to the educational process. The Board finds that this Dress Code and Uniform Policy is necessary to maintain the orderly process of the school functions and to prevent the endangerment of student health or safety.

Exceptions

Uniforms need not be worn at extracurricular athletic, academic, dramatic, or musical events or ceremonies unless required by the staff member supervising the event. Other appropriate clothing requirements may be made for such events by faculty sponsors with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

Uniforms need not be worn during physical education classes, but appropriate gym attire will be required.

The Board of Education finds that whenever a student's religious beliefs or health needs are reasonably believed to require any deviation from the uniform or dress code policy, accommodations may be made provided that the student's parents shall consult with the student's Building Principal. The Principal shall determine whether a genuine conflict exists between the uniform requirements and the central tenet of the student's religious beliefs or health needs and what accommodation, if any, should be made for the student. Any exception to the uniform requirements recommended by the Principal based upon a student's religious beliefs or health needs shall be submitted to the Superintendent for approval. The Superintendent shall also consider requests for assistance for compliance with this policy and shall adopt reasonable criteria and procedures to further this purpose.

Adopted: July 18, 1996

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