



Standard Dress & Uniform

STUDENT DRESS (J-2350)

The Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools or the health and safety of others.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop and enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices that:

- Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school.
- Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
- Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
- Prevent students from achieving their educational objectives.
- Represent membership in a gang.

Obscene language or symbols, or symbols of sex, drugs, or alcohol on clothing are expressly prohibited.

STUDENT DRESS REGULATION (J-2361)

The District encourages students to take pride in their attire as it relates to the school setting. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health, and welfare of self and others.

Student's hair will be clean, neat and well groomed. Students must wear appropriate clothing and shoes at all times. Sagging pants/shorts nor the fashion design of sagging pants or shorts will not be worn in school premises or during school activities, to include spandex or tight-fitting attire. Half-length or bare midriff shirts/blouses, translucent blouses, muscle shirts, or sport bra exposing body parts are not to be worn in school premises. Pants or shorts straps are to be fastened or snapped in order to prevent sagging and prevent exposure of body. Belts are also to be used to prevent sagging of pants /shorts. Girls may wear dresses of appropriate length (four [4] to six [6] inches above the knee) or shorts (four [4] to six [6] inches above the knee).

Students are not to wear T-shirts, tank tops, halter tops, sports-bras, Muscle shirts, jackets, attire or flash bandannas with either pictures, logos, phrases, letters or words printed on them that are bias, prejudicial, vulgar, profane, obscene, or disruptive in the judgment of the school administration. This will include, but not be limited to: gang, suggestive postures, nude/semi-nude figures, pictures or logos of alcoholic beverages, obscene gestures or words, or words of pictures that depict tobacco or prohibited substances, and figures in sexually suggestive postures.

Students are not to wear sunglasses, tinted glasses, handkerchiefs, bandannas, hairnets that are not appropriate, or hats of any kind within the school building unless approved by the school principal for special occasions. "Hats" should be interpreted literally as "hats" and will include, caps, visors, and similar hat-like apparel. Sweatshirts or jackets with hoods, scarves or kerchiefs worn next to the head will be considered hats.



Students in early childhood, kindergarten (K), and first (1st) through third (3rd) grades may be allowed to wear short pants to school. Students in grades four (4) through twelve (12) may be allowed to wear short pants to school providing that the bottom of the pants is not shorter than four (4) inches above the kneecap. The short pants will not have more than a one (1)-inch split up the sides. Cutoffs are not permitted except during physical education classes.

Exceptions for special activities, religious belief or health considerations may be preapproved by the administrator.

Students who volunteer for extracurricular activities, such as athletics, band, chorus, etc., are subject to the standards of dress as defined by the sponsors of such activities.

STUDENT DRESS REGULATION / SCHOOL UNIFORMS (J-2362)

The Board encourages all elementary school students inclusive of the seventh (7th) grade middle school to wear standardized uniforms to promote student's safety and positive school spirit, as well as reinforce a positive learning environment. Student uniforms shall be adopted at school sites where the parents of two-thirds (2/3) of the students vote to approve a school uniform program.

Adoption of School Uniforms by Individual Schools

Timeline for Enforcement

Students attending schools where a student uniform program has been implemented will be expected to be uniformly dressed the first day of school the following school year.

Students coming from out of Española Public School District or out of state, enrolling after the deadline date will be granted a temporary excuse from compliance for a period of thirty (30) school days.

Information Dissemination

Each school shall communicate to parents, information specific to the individual school sites, including:

- Type and color of uniforms.
- Requirements for jackets/outer garments.
- Optional articles of attire, if any.
- Compliance measures to be employed.
- The availability of financial support and the procedures for applying for assistance.
- Methods to facilitate recycling of uniforms within the school community.
- Notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles.

The means by which this information is communicated shall include one or more of the following:

- District newsletters.
- School newsletters.
- Parent forms.
- Telephonic notifications or through use of a telephone hotline.
- PTA meetings and newsletters.
- Posters displayed at school and community.
- Registration materials.
- Parent Advisory meetings.



Financial Considerations

No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear a uniform by reason of financial hardship.

Each school shall:

- Develop a procedure and criteria to identify families in need of financial assistance.
- Determine the form and type of financial assistance appropriate for the individual school community.
- Designate a specific staff member/school volunteer to assist those families in need of assistance.

Each school shall work with staff, the local school community, and business partners to identify resources for assistant families

Enforcement of Policy

Each school shall develop incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with the uniform policy. Each school should strive to achieve full compliance through use of incentives and positive action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, schools shall communicate with parents so that expectations, rationale and benefits are fully understood by the student and the student's family.

A student who has not retained a waiver and does not comply with the policy will be asked to notify parent to bring uniform to school. If parent cannot be reached, the school administrator may issue a uniform for the student to wear for the day. A letter will be sent home to parents informing them of disciplinary action that will be taken if student continues non-compliance.

Prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the policy, communication with the parent must be made by a school administrator or counselor to solicit parental cooperation and support.

Disciplinary action is to be initiated only after all other means to secure support and cooperation as mentioned above have not succeeded. A "progressive discipline" approach is to be employed by the school's support staff so as to encourage full and consistent compliance with the least amount of disciplinary action. The same disciplinary actions applied to enforce other school and District rules may be utilized with the exceptions noted above.

No student shall be considered non-compliant with the policy in the following instances:

- When noncompliance derives from financial hardship with the exception of "Information Dissemination - Availability of financial support", above.
- When a student wears a button, arm band or other accouterment to exercise the right to freedom of expression, unless the button, arm band or other accouterment signified or is related to gangs, gang membership or gang activity.
- When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.
- When wearing a school uniform violates a student's sincerely held religious belief.
- When a student wears a uniform of a club that is school sponsored, on days as determined by the principal.
- When a student's parents or guardian has secured an exemption from the uniform policy by following the procedures set forth above.



A student who has not retained a waiver and does not comply with the policy will not be allowed to participate in extra curricula activities or other school programs as deemed by the principal.

Exemption from the Uniform Policy

Student exemptions from compliance with the adopted student uniform program may be granted under certain conditions. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) desires to exempt his/her child from the uniform policy, the parents or guardian must observe the following procedure:

- The parents or guardians shall obtain an application for exemption at the student's school.
- Complete the application in full and submit it to the designated administrator for uniform program exemptions at the student's school.
- Meet with the school principal to discuss the uniform policy and the nature of the parents' or guardian's objections to the policy. The purpose of this meeting includes: 1) ensuring that the parents or guardians understand the reasons for and goals of the uniform policy; 2) verifying the accuracy of the information on the application; and 3) preventing fraud or misrepresentation.
- The school principal will approve or disapprove exemption based on financial or religious verification only.

- If financial support is offered to families a school administrator waiver exemption may be denied or may be granted and temporary excuse from compliance for a period to be determined by the school administrator not to exceed thirty (30) days from offer of assistance.
- Students who have approval of waiver will be expected to comply with the District dress code.
- Students who transfer from a different school zone will be required to comply with school uniform policy if transfer is to a school that has adopted the uniform policy.

Annual Evaluations

The principal of each school shall complete its respective evaluation in March of each year. The schools and the District shall review the results of the evaluations and the District shall consider proposed modifications to the uniform policy as appropriate no later than April.