

**Policy**

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UNIFORMS

It is the policy of the Plainfield Board of Education to allow schools who present certification to the Board to mandate students to wear standardized uniforms in their school. For a school to certify for provisions under this policy, a school must furnish the Board with the following materials:

- A. Documentation of efforts to furnish parents, staff and students with educational information on school uniforms;
- B. Evidence of significant engagement of students, parents, parent organizations, school leadership councils and all staff and employees at the school;
- C. Certification of Participation Agreements from a minimum of 90 percent of the families responded at the school;
- D. Documentation of consensus of support from the staff to implement school uniforms; and
- E. Agreement from parents and parent organizations to uphold the district's selection of the uniforms.

The intent of the policy is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in uniform from receiving the education to which he or she is entitled. Therefore, no student shall be suspended from class or from school, expelled from school, or receive a lowered academic grade as a result of not complying with the policy.

Students at schools that meet the criteria to dress in the district-specified uniforms will be required to wear uniforms beginning the first September following Board approval of the school application for certification to implement the uniform policy. The Board of Education will encourage parents to purchase uniforms from suppliers who observe national and international labor laws that seek to end child labor.

Uniform Waivers

Waivers of varying duration may be issued by the school administrator for the uniform policy. The waivers are restricted to those who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- A. Short Term Health

A health issue that would preclude a student from being able to wear the uniform to school;

- B. Religious Freedom

For those families who belong to a denomination or sect that has historical religious tenets that can be verified which preclude a student from wearing any clothing other than the religious apparel;

- C. Financial Hardship

No student shall be denied attendance at school or penalized for failing to wear a uniform by reason of demonstrated financial hardship. It shall be the responsibility of each of the involved schools to assist those families showing evidence of financial hardship and to provide appropriate support when necessary. Families in need of financial assistance for the purchase of school uniforms will be encouraged to contact the school. The Building Principal will determine the form and type of

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assistance and/or waiver that is appropriate. The Board shall include a provision to assist economically disadvantaged student to acquire said uniforms.

D. Personal Exemption

Parents or guardians who desire to exempt a child from the policy for personal reasons.

The uniform requirements as set forth in this policy may be suspended for classroom, school and/or district activities as appropriate. Any variation of the uniform policy must be approved by the Chief School Administrator or his/her designee prior to the activity.

**Adopted:** **May 19, 2009**

Key Word:

Uniforms, Gangs, Dress Code

<b><u>Legal References:</u></b>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-7	Legislative findings and declaration
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-8	Adoption of dress codes by boards of Education, Uniforms required; request for code by principal, staff, and parents
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-9	Adoption of dress code policy prohibiting wearing of clothing indicating membership in certain gangs

**Possible**

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	*5111	Admission
	*5125	Pupil records
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	*5131.5	Vandalism/violence
	*5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.