

MANDATORY SCHOOL UNIFORMS

PHILOSOPHY

The Terrebonne Parish School Board believes that a mandatory school uniform policy will provide a more secure school environment, promote an atmosphere for greater discipline, and increase learning opportunities for students by removing many of the distractions and connotations associated with various types of clothing.

The policy of the School Board shall be that no mode of attire will be considered proper for school wear that distracts from or disrupts classroom and school decorum. No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang-related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures. The principals of each school will make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided. Any substantial complaint concerning the dress code shall be dealt with by the school administration.

The School Board shall not exclude a student on account of a natural, protective or cultural hairstyle. *Natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle* shall include, but is not limited to, afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural significance.

All students attending Terrebonne Parish Schools are required to adhere to the School Board's mandatory uniform policy.

NOTIFICATION

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date. The dress code shall be distributed in written form or posted on the school's website annually.

If the School 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.

However, nothing shall prohibit the School 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 exceptions as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9, which includes permitting a student to wear, carry, or possess a backpack on school property or a school bus that has bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

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 inclusive of any school campus and within 1,000 feet of any such school campus, and within a school bus, wherein the possession of firearms is prohibited, except as specifically set forth in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.2(C) and 14:95.6(B).

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

UNIFORMS

Students attending schools in Terrebonne Parish shall be required to wear uniforms to class. Uniforms shall be worn as follows:

Primary School Boys Dress Code (K-4):

White or school approved solid colored, short or long sleeved, shirt (oxford, broadcloth, or knit with collar), uniform navy pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), or shorts

Middle/Secondary School Boys Dress Code (5-12):

White or school approved solid colored, short or long sleeved, shirt (oxford, broadcloth, or knit with collar), uniform khaki pants, in khaki or black (pleated, not pleated, or cuff); shorts, or joggers are allowed.

Primary School Girls Dress Code (K- 4):

White or school approved solid colored, short or long sleeved, blouse (oxford, knit or broadcloth with collar), uniform navy pants (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), pleated skirt, shorts, skorts, jumper or solid polo dress that is navy (see Dress Code Regulations).

Middle/Secondary School Girls Dress Code (5-12):

White or school approved solid colored, short or long sleeved, blouse (oxford, knit or broadcloth with collar), uniform khaki pants, in khaki or black (pleated, not pleated, or cuff), pleated or straight skirt, shorts, skorts, or jumper (see Dress Code Regulations).

DEFINITIONS

Uniforms Style Pants:

1. Depending on the grade of the student, uniform khaki pants must be navy, black, or khaki in color (no white allowed). No jean material will be acceptable. Pants may have partial or full elastic at the waist (joggers are allowed). Pants must have straight legs. Jumpsuits, overalls, or coveralls are not allowed. Pants may be pleated/not pleated, cuffed/not cuffed. If pants have a belt loop, a belt must be worn. Shorts, Capri, or full-length pants will be allowed. Shorts must conform to pants regulations and in grades 5-12 must be no shorter than five inches (5") from the knee when standing. A small discreet brand name is permitted.

Turtlenecks:

1. Primary Grades - Turtlenecks shall be white with no monograms, no name brands, and no logos. Turtlenecks do not have to be worn under a uniform shirt or a uniform jumper.
2. Middle or Secondary Grades - Turtlenecks shall be white with no monograms, no name brands, and no logos. Turtlenecks shall only be worn under a uniform shirt and/or uniform jumper.

Sweatshirts/Sweaters:

1. Pullover hooded sweatshirts, or long-sleeve sweatshirts/sweaters will be permitted. They shall not contain offensive language or graphics. Sweatshirt/sweaters officially sanctioned by the school are acceptable.

Appropriate emblems are allowed at the discretion of the principal.

DRESS CODE REGULATIONS

1. All students will wear the designated school uniform clothing as outlined in the uniform policy. All clothing must be worn as designed by manufacturer. (No tying outerwear around waist or neck.)
2. The wearing of uniforms which are oversized, baggy, sagging, or extremely tight fitting is prohibited.
3. Pants must be hemmed and side slits are not permitted. Pants cannot be made of denim material (jeans).
4. Belts may not be more than one size larger than the waist. All students must wear belts if pants have loops. Waistbands should be worn on waist.
5. Shirts must be worn tucked in at all times. Undergarments must not be visible.
6. Uniform shirt collars must be visible when wearing a sweatshirt.
7. Skirts in grades 5-12 must be worn no shorter than two inches (2") from the knee when standing.
8. Footwear must be worn to school, and students are encouraged to wear socks. When socks, leggings, or stockings are worn, they may be any color, and have stripes or logos as long as they are not distracting, doesn't contain offensive language or graphics and is a solid material with no holes.
9. Footwear must have a closed front, fully closed back, and possess a hard bottom sole.
10. Body piercing (except for the ears) that is visible will be prohibited. (Example: nose, lips, tongue, eyebrows, etc.)
11. Students will not be allowed to wear ornate, cumbersome, or excessive jewelry or head/hair accessories that are distracting or contain offensive language or graphics. The TPSD and its affiliates are not responsible for any damage, injury, or loss associated with the wearing of such items.
12. No caps, visors, beanies, bonnets, or hoodie hoods are allowed to be

worn in the school building.

13. New students to the parish will be given two (2) weeks from the date of enrollment to obtain the required uniform.

SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

Special Event days in which students are not required to wear uniforms are permitted, if approved by the principal.

HAND-MADE UNIFORMS

Parents/Guardians may obtain patterns for approved uniform style items and hand-make such items.

STUDENT GROOMING REGULATIONS

1. Student's hair must be groomed in such a manner that it will not draw undue attention. All naturally occurring hair colors are allowed (black, brunette, auburn, or blonde -- natural or dyed). Blue, pink, purple, green, orange, etc., are not allowed.
2. Faces must be kept neat, both in the case of boys with facial hair or girls with excessive make-up.
3. Basic to the grooming code is a commitment to neat, well-groomed students with personal hygiene and cleanliness being mandatory.

NOTE: For further clarification, in all questions regarding grooming and dress, if the administration decides that the student's attire or appearance is disruptive of the learning process, or so offensive or suggestive as to distract other students, then the attire or appearance will not be allowed.

GROOM AND DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS CONSEQUENCES

GRADES K- 12

First Offense: Verbal warning by faculty member, and correction of the infraction.

Second Offense: Dress code letter sent to parent, an appropriate school consequence, and correction of infraction.

Third Offense: Parent conference required, and correction of infraction.

Fourth Offense: Office referral, parent notification, Saturday school or in-school disciplinary action, and correction of infraction.

Repeated violations of this policy will be considered willful disobedience and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Dress Code and ID violation offences will start over in January.

PreK-5th

State Law prohibits the suspension or expulsion of a student in grades PreK-5 from school or suspended from riding on a school bus for a school uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.

Revised: June 1996

Revised: April 2000

Revised: September 2001

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Revised: August 2022

Revised: April 2024

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.9, 17:81, 17:111, 17:416, 17:416.7; Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt; 460 F. 2d 609 (5th Cir. 1972). Board minutes, 6-18-96, 5-4-99, 5-18-99, 5-16-00, 6-20-00, 10-3-00, 10-17-00, 9-18-01, 4-21-09, 09-21-10, 8-18-15, 8-7-18 (CWA Code of Student Conduct), 6-7-22, 9-6-22, 5-7-24.