

Salem City Board of Education District Policy Manual

Students

Series 5000

School Uniforms

Policy 5132.1

Date Adopted: July 12, 2006

Date Revised:

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WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education wishes to adopt a mandatory school uniform policy for all students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve; and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education firmly believes students who are safe and secure, who learn basic American values of discipline, hard work, study, responsibility, respect, and citizenship, are better students; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds and declares that many educators believe that school dress can significantly influence pupil behavior and that schools that have adopted dress codes, including dress codes which require school uniforms, experience greater school pride and improved behavior in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that to assist in controlling the environment in public schools, to facilitate and maintain an effective learning environment, and to keep the focus of the classroom on learning, school districts should be specifically authorized to implement uniform clothing requirements for their students; and

WHEREAS, the administration, staff, and parents support a mandatory school uniform policy; and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education firmly believes that the adoption of a mandatory school uniform policy will enhance the school learning environment; and

Whereas, the Salem City Board of Education firmly believes that the following issues would support such a mandatory school uniform policy:

1. Mandatory school uniforms will instill students with discipline, and create a positive atmosphere conducive to learning.
2. Mandatory school uniforms will help parents and students resist peer pressure.
3. Mandatory school uniforms will help students concentrate on their school work.
4. Mandatory school uniforms will promote a statement of identify, and improve security.
5. Mandatory school uniforms will create a sense of school unity, and enhance school spirit.
6. Mandatory school uniforms will help assist families with the economic burden of clothing their children since uniforms are less costly than non-uniform clothing.
7. Mandatory school uniforms will enhance the school's image in the community.
8. Mandatory school uniforms will assist students in preparing for the world of work.

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AND, WHEREAS, the mandatory school uniform for all students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve, commencing with the first day of classes of the 2006-2007 year, will be as follows:

Male Students

Student Choice of Solid Khaki or Navy Blue Bottoms

All male students will be required to wear pants of the appropriate size.

All male students will have the option of wearing shorts of the appropriate size during the months of May, June and September. All shorts cannot be more than 2 inches above the knee.

All male students will be required to wear their bottoms with a belt properly at the waist. **Pants with elastic at the waist that do not require a belt may also be worn.**

All bottoms will be required to be **hemmed and** free of logos, insignias, cargo pockets, slits, holes, tears, and cuts.

Student Choice of Solid Navy Blue or White Tops

All male students will be required to wear either a short or long sleeve dress shirt or pullover, button front, collared sport shirt of the appropriate size.

All male students will have the option of wearing a long sleeve mock turtleneck or turtleneck of the appropriate size.

All male students will be required to tuck in their tops into their bottoms.

All male students will have the option of wearing a sweatshirt, sweater, cardigan, or sweater vest of the appropriate size over their dress shirt, pullover, button front, collared sport shirt, or turtleneck (optional). If the sweatshirt, sweater, cardigan, or sweater vest is worn over a dress shirt or pullover, button front, collared sport shirt, the collar will be required to be visible.

All tops will be required to be free of logos, insignias, slits, holes, tears and cuts.

Foot Apparel

All male students will be required to wear either platform-free casual shoes, dress shoes, or sneakers. Sneakers will be required to be predominantly white or black.

All male students will have the option of wearing boots when the ground is covered with snow.

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Female Students

Student Choice of Solid Khaki or Navy Blue Bottoms

All female students will be required to wear either jumpers, skirts, pants, or skorts of the appropriate size. All jumpers will be required to be a maximum of two inches above the knee.

All skirts, shorts, jumpers and skorts cannot be more than 2 inches above the knee.

All female students will have the option of wearing shorts of the appropriate size during the months of May, June, and September.

All skirts, shorts, jumpers and shorts cannot be more than 2 inches above the knee.

All female students will be required to wear their bottoms properly at waist.

All bottoms will be required to be **hemmed and** free of logos, insignias, cargo pockets, slits, holes, tears, and cuts.

Student Choice of Solid Navy Blue or White Tops

All female students will be required to wear either a short or long sleeve dress shirt or pullover, button front, collared sport shirt of the appropriate size.

All female students will have the option of wearing a long sleeve mock turtleneck or turtleneck of the appropriate size.

All female students will be required to tuck their tops into their bottoms.

All female students will have the option of wearing a sweatshirt, sweater, cardigan, or sweater vest of the appropriate size over their dress shirt, pullover, button front, collared sport shirt, or turtleneck (optional). If the sweatshirt, sweater, cardigan, or sweater vest is worn over a dress shirt or pullover, button front, collared sport shirt, the collar will be required to be visible.

All tops will be required to be free of logos, insignias, slits, holes, tears, and cuts.

Foot Apparel

All female students will be required to wear either platform-free casual shoes, dress shoes, or sneakers. Heel height will be required to be no more than two inches and sneakers will be required to be predominantly white or black.

All female students will have the option of wearing boots when the ground is covered with snow.

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Gym Clothes – Male & Female Students

Student Choice of Solid Navy Blue, or Grey Bottoms & Solid Navy Blue, or Grey Tops

All students have the option of wearing a t-shirt, sweatshirt, and/or sweatpants of the appropriate size on their scheduled gym day.

All sweatshirts will be required to be worn over a dress shirt, pullover, button front, collared sport shirt, turtleneck (optional), or t-shirt (optional). If the sweatshirt is worn over a dress shirt or pullover, button front, collared sport shirt, the collar will be required to be visible.

All students will be required to wear their bottoms properly at the waist.

All students will be required to tuck their shirts into their bottoms.

All gym cloths will be required to be free of logos, insignias, cargo pockets, slits, holes, tears, and cuts.

Administrative Clause

The administration reserves the right to permit variations to the mandatory school uniform for specifically organized learning activities.

The administration reserves the right to temporarily suspend the mandatory school uniform for special theme days and/or special activities.

The administration reserves the right to amend the mandatory school uniform policy.

The administration reserves the right to restrict any clothing.

AND, WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education makes the sanctions that will be rendered upon those students who refuse to conform to this mandatory school policy. The sanctions are as follows

School Uniform Violations (enforcement will commence Monday, November 13, 2006.):

- Students flaunting the uniform policy will stay in school that day, suspension will begin at the end of the infraction day and will continue until the student returns to school in uniform and with a parent. (If the student (grades prek-8) comes to school on the second day or subsequent days out of uniform, the child will remain in the office and the parent will be called to pick up the child; in grades 9-12 the parent will be called and the student will be sent home.
- Minor Infractions i.e. student is not wearing a belt
The student will be called to the principal's office. The student will be given a warning. All subsequent violations will result in one after school detention.

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AND, WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education will conduct a public hearing on school uniforms at 6:00 in the SHS Library on August 9, 2006

AND, WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education recognizes parents may choose not to comply with the mandatory school uniform policy based on sincerely held religious beliefs as verified by the chief school administrator: and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education recognizes that a student shall not be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against nor denied admittance to school if the student's parents choose not to comply with the mandatory school uniform policy based on sincerely held religious beliefs as verified by the school administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education recognizes that a mandatory school uniform policy will not preclude students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization from wearing organization uniforms to school on days that the organization has a scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education recognizes that a mandatory school uniform policy will not preclude students who attend other accredited public or private school from wearing the school's uniform on days when they attend classes at those schools and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Board of Education will establish a school uniforms fund to assist economically disadvantaged students as approved by the chief school administrator; and

WHEREAS, The Salem City Board of Education will coordinate a school uniform exchange through the PTO and the school nurses, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Salem City Board of Education does hereby formally adopt the aforementioned mandatory school uniform policy requiring all students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve to wear the prescribed mandatory school uniform. Furthermore, it is not the intention of this Board of Education to infringe upon the rights of any individual, but rather to provide a safe and secure environment for all students to receive the education they so rightfully deserve.

Uniform Cost Cutting Measures

The Board of Education may, at its sole discretion, enter into an agreement with a supplier of school uniforms to help lower the cost of said uniforms.

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The Board of Education may, at its sole discretion establish a uniform exchange program to encourage uniform use and to help save money for parents/guardians. This uniform exchange program could involve all schools within the district and would allow parents/guardians to turn in old uniforms that are in good condition. Parents/guardians would then be permitted to obtain other used uniforms from the uniform exchange that would fit their child.

Exceptions

Upon the recommendation of the Principal and approval by the Superintendent of Schools, students may be permitted to attend school dressed in appropriate clothing other than a school uniform in order to participate in “School Spirit Day,” “Dress Down Day,” or some other observation or event. In such times, the Principal shall be responsible for providing detailed information to students, parents and guardians describing the event or activity and the appropriate attire for the event or activity.

Legal References:

NJSA 19A:11-1, 18A: 11-7, 18A:11-8, 18A:37-1