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# **NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## *Uniform Initiative* *For* *Elementary and* *Secondary Schools*

***Dr. Clifford B. Janey***  
***Superintendent***



**Uniforms**

The Newark Public Schools believes that a positive school learning environment is a major factor in high student achievement. There are three factors that contribute to a positive learning environment: safety, discipline and school unity. The Newark Public Schools believes that wearing uniforms is one avenue to achieve these goals. School uniforms can create a safer environment by having students wear the same style and color of dress. They help to identify students who belong to a particular school campus, making it easier to identify non-school persons who may be on the campus for disruptive purposes. They create a more disciplined environment by reducing negative competition and arguments over dress styles leading to an environment more conducive to learning. School uniforms promote school unity by eliminating factors that can create economic and social divisions among individuals, such as clothing styles and brands, thus allowing students to become more conscious of shared goals as meeting academic standards, developing self-confidence and understanding diversity. Wearing school uniforms contributes to create an environment in which student achievement is the highest priority.

Parents who do not wish their children to wear uniforms because of their children's religious beliefs, medical reasons or other strongly-held beliefs, must submit their requests in writing to the school principal. Forms are available at each school or at the Central Office.

With regard to uniforms, the District shall ensue the following: (1) a mechanism to assist students who are economically disadvantaged; (2) selection of the uniform for each school by the principal, staff and parents/guardians of that school; (3) sanctions for noncompliance with the uniform requirements for each school in which uniforms are mandatory; (4) provision for exceptions to the uniform requirements on the basis of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs; (5) provision for exceptions to the uniform requirements for other reasons, if a school allows any other exceptions. If the uniform policy at a school is voluntary, the student shall not be penalized or discriminated against for noncompliance.

This policy does not prevent students who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations approved by the District from wearing organization uniforms to school on days that the organization has scheduled a meeting. The principal shall maintain a list of approved organizations. **Date adopted by State District Superintendent: August 14, 2009.**

Uniforms are mandated in the elementary schools beginning in September 2009.

Although uniforms will not be mandated in the high schools until September 2010, we strongly encourage our high school students to wear uniforms during this pilot year.

**LEVEL I MISCONDUCT**

- **Disruptive behavior**
- **Unexcused tardiness/class cutting/absence**
- **Failure to wear identification badge when provided**
- **Cheating**
- **Failure to complete assignments**
- **Failure to follow instructions**
- **Wearing hats or other apparel disruptive to the educational process or other Dress Code Violations**
- **Failure to wear school uniform**  
(Students may not be suspended for not wearing their uniform)

**ACTION TAKEN FOR LEVEL I MISCONDUCT**

- **Verbal reprimand**
- **Contact parent**
- **Peer mediation**
- **Conference**
- **Withdrawal of privileges**
- **Detention**
- **Behavioral contract**
- **Behavioral Improvement Program**

