
Uniform Dress Code Policy

THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL



Why a Uniform Dress Code Policy?

The Committee believes a Uniform Dress Code Policy would...

- ❖ Keep students focused on their education, not their clothes.
- ❖ Provide for less distraction and more emphasis on education.
- ❖ Create a level playing field among students, reducing peer pressure and bullying.
- ❖ Eliminate/reduce competition that is created by who is dressed in less expensive or less fashionable clothing.

Why a Uniform/Dress Code Policy?

The Committee believes a Uniform Dress Code Policy would...

- ❖ Encourage children to use other avenues of expression such as academics, arts, music, athletics, etc.
- ❖ Allow a students' right to free expression to remain intact.
- ❖ Create a culture and climate of respect.
- ❖ Motivate our children to dress for success while preparing them for the real world.

Overwhelming Support

Proponents of the Uniform/Dress Code Policy Say...

- ❖ “When all students are wearing the same outfit, they are less concerned about how they look and how they fit in with their peers; thus, they can concentrate on their schoolwork” (bulletin published by the National Association of Secondary School Principals).
- ❖ Uniforms can decrease peer pressure and blur class lines between students (Virginia B. Draa, Assistant Professor of Human Ecology at Youngstown State University)

Overwhelming Support

Proponents of the Uniform/Dress Code Policy Found...

- ❖ 86% of school leaders said uniforms make “a significant positive impact on peer pressure.”
- ❖ 64% said uniforms reduce bullying (National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and Land’s End Survey, 2013).
- ❖ Students in uniform were perceived by teachers and fellow students as being more academically proficient, having higher academic potential, and being better behaved than students in regular clothes (1994).

The Committee Believes in Free Speech

- ❖ Canady v. Bossier Parish School Board (3-0, 2001), the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a school board's right to implement a mandatory uniform policy, stating that requiring uniforms for the purpose of increasing test scores and improving discipline "is in no way related to the suppression of student speech.
- ❖ [Students] remain free to wear what they want after school hours. Students may still express their views through other mediums during the school day."

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 1: *The Clifton School District should adopt a Uniform Dress Code Policy.*

School # 1

78% = Yes / 22% = No

School # 2

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 3

71% = Yes / 29% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

76% = Yes / 24% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

76% = Yes / 24% = No

School # 11

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 12

86% = Yes / 20% = No

School # 13

81% = Yes / 19% = No

School # 14

72% = Yes / 28% = No

School # 15

74% = Yes / 26% = No

School # 16

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 17

87% = Yes / 13% = No

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 2: *I would spend less money on school clothes if my child had a Uniform Dress Code Policy.*

School # 1

78% = Yes / 22% = No

School # 2

68% = Yes / 32% = No

School # 3

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

71% = Yes / 29% = No

School # 11

83% = Yes / 17% = No

School # 12

74% = Yes / 26% = No

School # 13

81% = Yes / 19% = No

School # 14

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 15

74% = Yes / 26% = No

School # 16

65% = Yes / 35% = No

School # 17

89% = Yes / 11% = No

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 3: *A Uniform Dress Code Policy would improve the learning environment*

School # 1

79% = Yes / 21% = No

School # 2

65% = Yes / 35% = No

School # 3

63% = Yes / 37% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 11

78% = Yes / 22% = No

School # 12

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 13

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 14

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 15

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 16

60% = Yes / 40% = No

School # 17

85% = Yes / 15% = No

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 4: *A Uniform Dress Code Policy increases school pride.*

School # 1

80% = Yes / 20% = No

School # 2

67% = Yes / 33% = No

School # 3

68% = Yes / 32% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

63% = Yes / 37% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 11

82% = Yes / 18% = No

School # 12

78% = Yes / 22% = No

School # 13

81% = Yes / 19% = No

School # 14

70% = Yes / 30% = No

School # 15

74% = Yes / 26% = No

School # 16

65% = Yes / 35% = No

School # 17

88% = Yes / 12% = No

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 5: *Implementing a Uniform Dress Code Policy would be a positive addition to our school*

School # 1

81% = Yes / 19% = No

School # 2

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 3

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

64% = Yes / 36% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 11

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 12

77% = Yes / 23% = No

School # 13

77% = Yes / 23% = No

School # 14

71% = Yes / 29% = No

School # 15

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 16

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 17

88% = Yes / 12% = No

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 6: *A strict dress code would lessen peer pressure on current fashion trends*

School # 1

79% = Yes / 21% = No

School # 2

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 3

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

75% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 11

86% = Yes / 14% = No

School # 12

80% = Yes / 20% = No

School # 13

81% = Yes / 19% = No

School # 14

68% = Yes / 32% = No

School # 15

77% = Yes / 23% = No

School # 16

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 17

85% = Yes / 15% = No

Elementary Dress Code Policy: Survey Results Reveal Community Support

Question # 7: *I would be interested in attending a meeting to learn more about the proposed Uniform Dress Code Policy*

School # 1

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 2

53% = Yes / 46% = No

School # 3

58% = Yes / 41% = No

School # 4

85% = Yes / 15% = No

School # 5

57% = Yes / 43% = No

School # 8

73% = Yes / 27% = No

School # 9

63% = Yes / 37% = No

School # 11

69% = Yes / 31% = No

School # 12

65% = Yes / 35% = No

School # 13

65% = Yes / 35% = No

School # 14

55% = Yes / 25% = No

School # 15

59% = Yes / 41% = No

School # 16

50% = Yes / 50% = No

School # 17

73% = Yes / 27% = No

What Exactly Will the Attire Look Like?

- ❖ Navy or beige khaki flat front pants;
- ❖ Navy or beige khaki shorts, skort or skirt;
- ❖ White or maroon/red short or long sleeve golf (polo) sport shirt;
- ❖ Students may also have the option of wearing a long sleeve turtleneck and/or sweater vest or cardigan of the appropriate size and color.

What Exactly Will the Attire Look Like?

Continued....

- ❖ All shirts, sweaters, and vests are required to be free of logos, insignias, slits, holes, tears, and cuts;
- ❖ All students are required to tuck their shirts into their bottoms. All bottoms having belt loops require a belt to be worn;
- ❖ All students can wear white, black, or brown shoes or sneakers. Footwear exceptions will be made during inclement weather.

Where Can Clothing be Purchased?

- ❖ The attire may be purchased through **ANY VENDOR** who sells the required clothing as outlined within the uniform dress code policy.

School Pride & Gym Days

- ❖ Upon the approval of the Principal and Superintendent of the Schools, the school's parent organization may explore selling iron-on logos representing the school's mascot in an effort to increase school pride. Logos may be sold by the school's parent organization **ONLY** and are **NOT MANDATORY** for purchase by parents/guardians.
- ❖ Students will have the option of wearing sweat pants and shirts of the designated colors as outlined within the uniform dress code policy for gym.

Religious Exceptions

- ❖ Headdresses worn for religious reasons are exempt for the policy and ***WILL BE ALLOWED***.
- ❖ A parent/legal guardian may request an exemption for their child wearing the school uniform by completing the Application for School Uniform Exemption form stating a bona fide religious objection to wearing the school uniform.

Other Exceptions

- ❖ Upon 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 selection from the uniform dress code in order to participate in School Spirit Day, Dress Down Day, or some other recognized school event.

*Implementing The Uniform Dress Code Policy Will **Not** Cost The District Money*

Each school working with the school's parent organization, will develop fundraising opportunities, community donation programs, and corporate sponsorships to defray the cost of the uniform dress code policy for economically disadvantage students.

What Does That Mean For The School's Parent Organization?

The committee realizes that the school's parent organization already work hard enough to ensure our children receive additional perks to enrich their education.

The committee's proposal is not intended to be a burden on the school's parent organization. Simple steps could be taken to address this provision.

Ideas for Defraying the Cost

- ❖ Organizing a monthly dress down day where children will be asked to pay \$1.00 to participate. The monies collected from this fundraiser could go to the uniform dress code policy fund.
- ❖ Partner up with local businesses who may be willing to donate the clothing or provide a discount/coupon for parents requesting assistance.
- ❖ Develop a school uniform exchange program.

Definition of Defraying the Cost

- ❖ Parents requesting assistance must first show a financial need which is **not** necessary established by free or reduced lunch.
- ❖ If a financial need is established, the individual schools are only asked to help defray the cost but **not** necessarily provide an entire uniform to the student.
- ❖ Providing a school shirt may be considered a way of helping defray the cost

Clifton Moving Forward

