



Responsible Office: Office of School Performance

BOARD POLICY 5105

STUDENT UNIFORMS – ADOPTION OF A SITE-BASED POLICY

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) believes that every school community has the right to decide to implement a site-based policy regarding student uniforms that is consistent with the desired outcomes set forth herein. This policy shall serve to describe and define the Washoe County School District’s (“District”) protocols and process that shall be followed in contemplating, adopting and implementing such a site-based student uniform policy.

POLICY

1. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to allow District schools to establish a site-based policy that requires students to wear school uniforms. Schools that choose to adopt a site-based student uniform policy shall follow a collaborative, inclusive process that gives parents/guardians, students, and faculty and staff a voice. The implementation of school uniforms at a specific school site must adhere to the parameters set forth through this policy’s accompanying administrative regulation.
2. Each site-based policy shall:
 - a. Include a description of the uniform (i.e. colors, types of clothing);
 - b. Identify which students must wear the uniforms
 - c. Designate the hours or events during which the uniforms must be worn;
and,
3. Describe the program of financial assistance for the acquisition of uniforms by parents/guardians. The specific prohibitions and limitations of the District’s dress code shall remain in effect, consistent with any site-based school uniform policy adopted by a school.
4. Site-Based Student Uniforms Policy Options
 - a. When considering adopting a site-based student uniform policy, the school may consider either of the following options:

- i. Voluntary School Uniforms – The school shall prescribe a student uniform using the implementation method outlined below but allows the parent/guardian to make the decision concerning their student’s participation; or
- ii. Mandatory School Uniforms – The school shall prescribe a standard student uniform using the implementation method outlined below and require all students to participate.

5. Appropriate Clothing for a School Uniform

- a. Using a pre-determined set of District approved clothing guidelines, schools that adopt a site-based student uniform policy shall determine the specifically allowed articles of clothing and color scheme during the survey process.
- b. Uniforms may have the school logo and school name. No other language shall exist on the uniforms that is not specific to the school name and mascot (i.e. “Home of the Bears”).
- c. The site-based policy shall not include content based exceptions to the uniform requirements. Such allowances may only occur on “free days” or days when no student is mandated to wear the student uniform.
 - i. Content based exceptions (clothing not allowed as an exception to the school uniform) include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Team clothing (i.e. football jerseys);
 - 2. Uniforms of outside organizations in lieu of the school uniform (i.e. Boy Scout uniform).
- d. Uniforms which are worn as a requirement of an academic program, (i.e. JROTC, certain internships and signature academies) are permitted.

6. Dissemination of the policy decision

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the school-site administration to disseminate information regarding adoption of a site-based student uniform policy. An information packet shall be distributed to all students that shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. Information on the policy;
 - ii. Options on articles of clothing, colors, etc.;
 - iii. How to order uniforms, including the names and addresses of vendors;

- iv. Costs and available financial assistance programs;
 - v. Enforcement guidelines (if policy is mandatory).
- 7. Commencement of the school-site student uniform policy shall be at the start of the school year following its adoption.
- 8. Sale of Uniforms
 - a. The sale of student uniforms as a fundraising opportunity at a school is prohibited. In some cases, an outside vendor may be selected to sell student uniforms. Every effort should be made to make clothing available that is both affordable and good quality.
 - b. Financial assistance for the acquisition of school uniforms shall be made available for eligible parent(s)/guardian(s). This assistance can take the form of financial assistance, uniforms offered at a discount, or uniforms being donated or sold by graduating students.
- 9. Schools shall evaluate the effectiveness of the site-based policy every fourth year the site-based policy is in place using the site-based policy adoption process. (See Administrative Regulation 5105)
 - a. No other changes to the site-based school uniform policy shall occur within the four year period without the express permission of the Superintendent. Upon such permission, the adoption process outlined in Administrative Regulation 5105 and any accompanying documents shall be followed.
- 10. Misc.
 - a. The uniforms selected shall not be characterized as gender-specific.
 - b. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to restrict or ban a student's wearing of religious clothing. Parents having religious-based concerns regarding the dress code are encouraged to discuss them with the principal. Any appeal of the principal's decision shall follow the process described in Board Policy 1312, Public Complaint Procedure, and the accompanying Administrative Regulation.
 - c. At the principal's discretion, exceptions for special Spirit Days and/or Free Dress Days can be made. Such exceptions cannot benefit one group of students to the exclusion of another group.
 - d. At the discretion of the Superintendent, certain alternative setting schools may mandate the use of school uniforms or standard student attire without following the adoption process outlined in Administrative Regulation 5105.

11. Consequences for Violations of the School Uniform Policy

- a. A student who is found to be in violation of the school's site-based student uniform policy may face consequences as outlined in the District's Behavior Matrix and Progressive Discipline Plan.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Through this policy, a consistent and equitable process for initiating a site-based school uniform policy, consistent with the District's dress code, shall be established. The intent of any dress code is to help generate a positive learning environment, enhance positive interactions between students, and create and maintain a favorable school image.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 9031, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
 - b. Administrative Regulation 5105, Student Uniforms
 - c. Board Policy 5400, Student Behavior
 - d. Administrative Procedure PATH-P100, Student Discipline
 - e. Administrative Procedure PATH-P101, Prohibited Conduct
 - f. Administrative Procedure PATH-P122, Gangs and Gang Activity
2. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to include:
 - a. Chapter 388, System of Public Instruction, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 388.121 – 388.137, Provision of Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
 - b. Chapter 392, Pupils, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 392.415, Authorization to establish policy of uniforms for pupils and dress code for educational personnel; financial assistance for pupils to purchase uniforms
 - ii. NRS 392.461-4675, Behavior and Discipline

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this policy.
3. School Uniform Site-Based Policies shall be evaluated by the school every four years upon adoption.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
6/24/2014	1.0	Adopted
4/14/2015	2.0	Revised: moved certain appropriate items to the administrative regulation
9/13/2016	3.0	Revised: removed specifics of adoption process, to include school committees, which are covered in the implementation procedures in the administrative regulation