

Regulation

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy 902.04A, AR 902.04A
Responsible Office: DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for schools to implement a mandatory school-site school uniform policy.

B. BACKGROUND

1. A mandatory school-site school uniform policy is one in which the school prescribes a standard student uniform and requires all students to participate unless the parent seeks an exemption from the policy.

C. PROCEDURES

1. If a school wishes to implement a mandatory uniform policy at their school in which students are required to wear uniforms at school, the principal will inform the Regional Director of Schools of their intention. Alternative schools have a mandatory school uniform policy outside of this policy and regulation.
2. The principal and staff will, then, work with the School Improvement Team, PTA or PTSO, and School Citizen's Advisory Committee in developing a local school plan. The plan must address, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Rationale/educational value of uniforms;
 - b. Type, cost and color of uniforms, to include description of tops, bottoms, what is acceptable for boys and girls, and outerwear (to be worn over a school shirt);
 - c. Exceptions to the uniform policy (for example on field days, spirit day, picture days, or when parent/guardian has secured an exemption from the school administrator per guidelines below);
 - d. Provisions for students who may not have the ability to purchase;
 - e. Involvement of parents in the implementation of the plan (see below);
 - f. At the high school level, involvement of students in the decision to adopt school uniforms;
 - g. Procedures for parents to seek exemptions to the school-site uniform policy; and
 - h. Enforcement of the plan, including consequences/procedures for failure to wear uniforms.

3. The Superintendent will approve a survey to be used to ascertain parental/guardian interest in students wearing uniforms.
4. All parents/guardians will be surveyed using the District approved survey to determine if they are in favor of students wearing uniforms. At the high school level, students shall be included in the decision to mandate the wearing of uniforms. If at least 70% of the parent surveys are returned and 80% of those parents are in favor of uniforms, the plan will be submitted to the Superintendent for approval.
5. The Superintendent or his designee will approve or disapprove the school's recommendation for mandatory school uniforms.
6. The school-site administration shall be responsible to circulate the mandatory school-site school uniform policy. In addition, the school's uniform policy statement, the process by which the school staff arrived at this decision, and the school-based guidelines designed to implement the policy should be included in any school related documents distributed to parents and students each year. The information packet shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Information on the policy;
 - b. Options on articles of clothing, colors, etc.;
 - c. How to order uniforms, including the names and addresses of local vendors;
 - d. Costs and, if available, financial assistance programs;
 - e. Enforcement guidelines as provided in this regulation and the Student Code of Conduct; and
 - f. Procedures for exemption from the policy.
7. A mandatory school-site school uniform policy shall be effective at the start of the school year following its approval by the Superintendent or his/her designee provided that such approval has occurred on or before the second Friday of May.
8. No student shall be considered in violation of the school's mandatory uniform policy if the parent/guardian secures an exemption for the student from the building administrator for any one of the following reasons:
 - a. Violates religious belief;
 - b. Creates financial hardship; and
 - c. Conflicts with the wearing of a nationally recognized youth organization uniform (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts) on meeting days, during Scout Week, etc.
9. All schools implementing this policy and regulation shall evaluate the effectiveness of their policy each year for the first three years of the mandatory uniform policy. Thereafter the evaluation of the uniform program may be included in the school's regular review process. School-site administrators along with their staff and parent organization shall consider either continuation of their uniform policy or changes to the policy on or

before the second Friday of May each year. Any change should be implemented at the start of the next school year. All school information packets should reflect the school-based changes.

10. If a school wishes to discontinue the mandatory uniform policy at their school in which students would not longer be required to wear uniforms at school, the principal will inform the Regional Director of Schools of their intention.
11. All parents/guardians will be surveyed using the District approved survey to determine if they are in favor of discontinuing the mandatory uniform policy. If at least 70% of the parent surveys are returned and 80% of those parents are in favor of discontinuing uniforms, the request for discontinuing uniforms will be submitted to the Superintendent for approval.
12. The Superintendent or his designee will approve or disapprove the school's recommendation for discontinuing mandatory school uniforms.
13. Enforcement

Schools with mandatory uniform policies shall impose the following progressive discipline steps for violations of the policy:

- a. First Offense: The administrator will conference with the student and issue an oral warning. The parent or guardian will be notified by phone or in writing, and may have the opportunity to bring the student's uniform to the school. The student will return to the instructional program with a school-issued uniform (which may include a gym uniform) for the remainder of the day or until the parent/guardian brings the student's uniform to the school.
- b. Second Offense: The administrator will conference with the student and issue a written warning. The written warning will notify students that continued offenses may result in suspension or expulsion from school for insubordination based on the Student Code of Conduct. The parent or guardian will be notified by phone or in writing, and may have the opportunity to bring the student's uniform to the school. The student will return to the instructional program with a school-issued uniform (which may include a gym uniform) for the remainder of the day or until the parent/guardian brings the student's uniform to the school.
- c. Additional offenses: The principal may impose consequences for insubordination in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The principal has discretion not to impose discipline and to instead work with the parent/guardian on an acceptable resolution.

Regulation History: *Developed by Superintendent 12/16/04*
 Reviewed by Board of Education 2/2 /05
 Issued 3/16 /05 and revised 5/10/06.

Note Previous History: *None*