221. DRESS AND GROOMING

1. Purpose
The School Reform Commission is committed to providing a safe and secure environment conducive to learning. Parents/Guardians and community partners agree that school uniforms are an effective strategy for improving behavior and discipline, improving school climate, focusing students’ attention on learning, promoting school spirit and pride, and decreasing access of trespassers to schools during class time.

2. Definition
Uniform shall be defined as clothing of the same style and/or color and, therefore, encompasses clothing of a standard look.

3. Authority
The SRC has the authority to impose limitations on students’ dress in school. The SRC shall require all district students to wear standard dress or uniforms. Each school shall determine the uniforms to be worn by students attending the school.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technical education, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.

The SRC directs that uniform and dress standards and their implementation shall be developed cooperatively with parents/guardians, students, district administrators, and community stakeholders.

4. Delegation of Responsibility
All students are required to dress in the manner adopted by their school or be subject to corrective or disciplinary measures. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified of the school’s uniform requirements before the start of each school year.

The building principal or designee shall be responsible to monitor student dress and grooming, and to use reasonable discretion and judgment in enforcing SRC policy, administrative procedures and school rules governing student dress and grooming.
Title 22 Sec. 12.11

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy. All administrative procedures and rules governing student grooming impose only the minimum necessary restrictions on the exercise of the student's taste and individuality.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to develop procedures for instances where district uniform requirements impose a financial hardship on students and parents/guardians. Such procedures shall properly safeguard the privacy of those students.

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Staff members shall be instructed to demonstrate, by example, positive attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

5. Guidelines

Nothing in this policy or administrative procedures shall be construed to restrict or ban a student’s wearing of religious garb. Parents/Guardians having religion-based concerns regarding a school’s uniform policy are encouraged to discuss those concerns with the building principal of his/her child’s school.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1317.3

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.11

School Reform Commission Policy – 218, 325