

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Student Responsibilities and Rights**

#### **Voluntary Uniforms in Public Schools**

This policy supersedes Policy 2660.3

#### **I. PURPOSE**

To authorize individual schools to adopt voluntary school uniforms.

#### **II. SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Any individual Fairfax County public school may establish a local policy to help students and parents who want to participate in a practice of wearing uniforms while in attendance at such school during the regular school day. Such local policy shall be consistent with the Virginia Board of Education's guidelines: Guidelines for the Wearing of Uniforms in Public Schools.

#### **III. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

The Fairfax County School Board neither encourages nor discourages the adoption of a voluntary uniform policy at any school. The Fairfax County School Board permits the initiation of a voluntary uniform policy for any individual school under the following conditions and provisions:

- A. Parents wanting to establish a voluntary uniform policy for their children's school shall first obtain copies of the state guidelines and School Board policies and then meet with the principal of the school involved.
- B. These parents shall describe the initial proposal for a local uniform policy in a joint letter to the families of all students attending the school. After review by the principal (and approval as to form), the letter shall be distributed by the school for information and must address the following:
  1. The voluntary nature of a local uniform policy.
  2. Reasons for supporting such a policy.
  3. Assistance in obtaining uniforms for students with financial need.
  4. Establishment of a coordinating committee composed of parents, students, and school staff members to evaluate uniform styles, determine costs, and propose procedures for local implementation.

5. Announcement of the date, time, and place of an open information meeting to discuss the proposed policy.
- C. Any group of parents or students opposing such a policy may also present a joint letter stating their reasons for opposition. This letter shall be distributed by the school to the families of all students. Whenever practical, any such letter should be distributed with the initial proposal.
- D. The school shall schedule an open information meeting for parents and staff members at which the pros and cons of the issue and implementation procedures may be discussed. The principal shall preside at that meeting. Additional meetings may be scheduled. If there is sufficient interest in pursuing a uniform policy, the method of selecting parents, students, and staff members to serve on the coordinating committee shall be determined at the meeting and the members selected. All meetings of the coordinating committee shall be open to the public.
- E. Following the information meeting(s), the coordinating committee shall circulate petitions seeking support for the proposed voluntary uniform policy. These petitions shall state that the policy shall be voluntary, that equity issues shall be addressed, whether or not any formal reward or incentive procedure to encourage the wearing of uniforms will be permitted and the general nature of that incentive, and that the coordinating committee shall recommend the style of uniform, the cost and the implementation procedures to be followed.
- F. If the petitions are endorsed by at least 60 percent of the families having students who attend the school, the coordinating committee shall present its recommendations and the petitions to the principal for his or her endorsement. Upon endorsement, the principal shall forward the coordinating committee's recommendations and the petitions to the Department of Special Services (DSS).
- G. The assistant superintendent of DSS, or his or her designee, shall assure that the petitions are valid and complete and that all requirements of School Board policy have been met.
- H. If the petitions are in order and the process has been followed, the assistant superintendent of DSS shall forward the petitions to the School Board member in whose district the school is located along with his or her recommendation. That School Board member shall be responsible for sharing and discussing the recommendations and petitions with other School Board members whose districts have students attending the school, the student representative, and all at-large members.
- I. The appropriate School Board member shall arrange with the School Board chairman to place the school's proposal on a regular meeting agenda. The School Board shall vote to endorse or to not endorse the proposal.

- J. The clerk of the School Board shall notify the school of the School Board's decision.
- K. If the school's proposal is endorsed by the School Board, the coordinating committee shall schedule, within a reasonable period of time, an open information meeting for all families with students who attend the school to describe the program and discuss its implementation. This information shall also be distributed in writing to all families having children who attend the school.
- L. Should a school having already adopted a voluntary uniform policy, as of September 24, 1998, desire to institute a formal reward or incentive procedure to encourage the wearing of uniforms, the school shall provide notice to the families of all students of an open information meeting for parents and staff members, along with notice that a vote may be taken at that meeting. The formal reward or incentive program, along with the general nature of that incentive, shall be discussed at the meeting, with all views represented at the meeting having an opportunity to address the issue. Should the coordinating committee wish to institute a formal reward or incentive program, it may do so only upon a vote of 60 percent of the families attending that meeting.

Legal Reference: Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-79.2

Policy  
adopted: November 21, 1996  
Revised: September 24, 1998  
Corrected: October 22, 1998  
Revised: March 25, 1999  
Revised: July 27, 2000  
Revised: January 19, 2006