

HICKORY CITY ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL UNIT
432 Fourth Avenue SW
Hickory, North Carolina 28602

File: JCDBA
STUDENTS

STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE

The Board believes that a safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to operating successful schools. To this end, the Board may authorize schools at one or all grade spans (high school, middle school, elementary school) to implement programs in which students and/or faculty and staff are required to adhere to a standardized dress code during the school day.

The Board believes that there are valid educational reasons to adopt a standardized dress code, including the following:

- Minimize disruptive behavior
- Increase school safety
- De-emphasize socioeconomic differences
- Allow for easy identification of intruders on campus
- Allow students to focus better on instructional objectives of the school
- Favorably impact student attitude
- Promote harmony among students and enhance the image of the school

Expectations of the standardized dress code shall be communicated to parents within six (6) months of the implementation date. The school shall encourage full and consistent compliance of the standardized dress code with the least amount of disciplinary action. Prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the standardized dress code, a school administrator or counselor shall hold a conference with the parent or guardian of the student to solicit cooperation and support.

The Board shall provide for the following:

- Provisions for the purchase of an adequate number of items for use in the “clothes closet” for use by students who are not in compliance;
- Provisions for the purchase of clothing for students who, because of financial hardships, are unable to purchase the required clothing (may be based on free and reduced lunch eligibility);
- Provisions that ensure that a student’s sincerely held religious beliefs are not substantially burdened;
- Provisions for the involvement of parents;
- Provisions for the enforcement of the implementation of the standardized dress code policy, including disciplinary consequences for students failing to comply;

- Provisions to implement a procedure for evaluating the standardized dress code policy on a yearly basis
- Provisions to consider reasonable exceptions when medically indicated

An Advisory Committee, consisting of faculty, students, parents, and administrators, shall be appointed by the Board for the purpose of developing grade span guidelines.

Details of standardized dress codes implemented at a specific grade spans shall be attached as an appendix to this policy for reference.

Adopted: *November 19, 2007*