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**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR GRADES KINDERGARTEN TO EIGHT

This Administrative Guideline has been authorized by the Board of Education and supports Policy 5511.01 regarding School Uniforms for Grades Kindergarten to Eight (“K-8”). The Superintendent shall continue to assess and revise these Administrative Guidelines as needed.

Uniform Requirements

General Rule:

All students must meet the present Dress Code requirements. In addition, kindergarten through eighth (8th) grade students must comply with the following school uniform dress requirements:

Tops/Shirts:

- No hoods or sweatshirts; tops/shirts must be tucked in; no logos
- Colors: White, blue or yellow and up to two (2) school colors designated by the principal. Solid colors only
- Females: Polo-style collared shirts or button-up blouses with collars at the neck or turtle necks
- Males: Polo-style collared shirts or dress shirts with collars or turtle necks

Bottoms/Pants:

- No jeans, jean-style pants, or cargo pants; no sweat suits; no logos
- Colors: Navy blue, khaki, black
- Females: Uniform style or classic fit slacks (flat front or pleated), uniform-style dresses, skirts and skorts, jumpers, knee-length shorts (flat front or pleated) or corduroy
- Males: Uniform-style or classic fit pants (flat front or pleated) or corduroy and uniform knee-length shorts (flat front or pleated).

Sweaters and Vests:

- Must be worn over a collared shirt or blouse; no hoods.
- Pullover and cardigan or turtleneck sweaters in required colors.
- Colors: Same as for tops
- Males and Females: Cardigans, pullovers or vests

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Shoes and Socks;

No requirements for shoes at this time, but students are encouraged to wear plain shoes that are black, blue or brown or athletic shoes that are white, black or navy blue. Matching socks, tights, or stockings of any color may be worn.

Belts:

If the slacks or pants have belt loops, students are encouraged to wear black, brown or navy belts; no chain belts or belts with writing are permitted.

Outer-Wear:

No restrictions at this time, but outer-wear must be kept in a locker or other designated area.

Compliance Measures

No student shall be considered noncompliant with the policy in the following instances:

- **Scouts, etc.:** When a student wears the uniform of a nationally-recognized organization such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or ROTC on regular meeting days.
- **Religious Beliefs:** When wearing a school uniform violates a student's sincerely held religious beliefs.
- **Special Needs Exemption:** When a student's parent/guardian has secured a special needs exemption or when the principal of a building or an IEP team initiates a special needs exemption from the School Uniform Requirements. For example, if a student has a disability, specific requirements may be waived, or, if a student is excessively overweight, an exemption to address the concern, such as allowing fully elastic waisted tops and banded rather than tucked-in tops may be permitted.
- **Spirit Days and Special Activities and Programs:** When the principal has declared a special day or activity that exempts the wearing of school uniforms for a limited purpose or for a limited group of students. These can include a school spirit day, a day of recognition or reward, a holiday celebration day, a field day, a school performance or participation in a specific performing arts or athletic program

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requiring different clothing during a school day. The principal may also allow the wearing of clothing with the name of the school or school mascot.

- **Grandfathering of Existing Programs:** When any school has existing uniform requirements, anything meeting the existing requirements may be worn through the 2009-2010 school year, but the students will also be able to wear the alternative uniform clothing that meets the requirements of this policy.

Special Needs Exemption Process

If the parent or guardian desires to exempt his/her child from the uniform policy for individual special student needs, the parent or guardian must observe the following procedure:

- Request by mail or in person an Application for Exemption from the uniform program ("Application"). The parent or guardian may obtain an Application at the student's school site. The Superintendent shall provide the Application to the schools or on line.
- Complete the application in full and submit it to the principal at the student's school.
- Meet with the principal to discuss the uniform policy and the nature of the parent (s) or guardian's reasons for requesting an exemption to the policy. The purposes of this meeting include:
 1. ensuring that the parent (s) or guardian understands the reasons for, and goals of the uniform policy;
 2. verifying the accuracy of the information on the application; and
 3. preventing misrepresentation.
- For purposes of consistent administration of the uniform policy, all parent/guardian initiated special needs exemptions must also be reviewed and approved by an individual designated by the Superintendent.

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Enforcement and Discipline

The School Uniform Policy shall be incorporated into the Code of Student Conduct. Any student who is in violation of the Dress Code or the School Uniform Policy may be subject to discipline and may be required to change into compliant clothing before being permitted to attend classes or school activities. The principals shall provide guidelines for enforcement and related discipline. These guidelines shall provide for progressive measures, starting with reasonable efforts to make personal contact with parents, a written notice to parents, and other forms of discipline.

Approved: 8/28/08
Revised: 10/27/08