

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 8.20
UNIFORMS AND STUDENT DRESS CODE**

(1) PURPOSE—GENERAL PRINCIPLES

To establish guidelines for the wearing of school uniforms.

~~(a) Rules concerning student dress may be established by individual schools only when they relate to a specific educational, health, or safety purpose. Students shall not be excluded from regular instruction because of their appearance if style, fashion, or taste is the sole criterion for such exclusion.~~

~~(b) School officials may prohibit dress which is so distracting as to interfere with the learning process, but may not impose limitations on dress in which fashion or taste is the sole consideration, even if a majority of students have approved a school dress code.~~

~~(c) While the school administration may require students participating in physical education classes to wear certain types of clothing such as sneakers, white socks, shorts, and tee shirts, they may not prescribe a specific brand which students must buy. Schools also may prohibit articles of clothing that cause excessive maintenance problems, such as cleats on boots, shoes that scratch floors, trousers with metal inserts that scratch furniture, etc.~~

~~(d) Additionally, existing laws and school regulations require the wearing of protective clothing, eye shields, or other dress for the health or safety of students. For example, a hair net or cap may be required where long hair may pose a health or safety threat near open flames, moving machinery, or in food classes. Each school shall make provisions for notifying students of these rules.~~

(2) SCOPE UNIFORMS

This policy applies to all students in traditional Milwaukee Public Schools.

~~(a) Each elementary and K-8 school governance council shall determine whether or not to adopt a policy requiring all pupils enrolled in the school to wear a uniform while in school or while under the supervision of the school authority. The school governance council's decision shall be based on broad-based support from the school's community, including parents, students, staff, and others.~~

~~(b) Prior to implementation, input from the school community is to be gathered relative to styles, colors, and cost of the school uniform.~~

~~(c) A parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in the school may exempt his/her child from complying with the policy by filing a written exemption form with the school principal.~~

~~(d) The school and its staff shall ensure that no pupil is penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against because the pupil's parent or guardian has chosen to exempt the pupil from complying with the uniform policy.~~

~~(e) The principal shall work with local discount merchants to identify the most inexpensive uniform components and shall notify parents as to where such uniforms may be purchased. The school governance council shall solicit donations from community businesses and agencies to be used to assist economically disadvantaged pupils to purchase the uniforms.~~

~~(f) Each parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in an elementary or K-8 school will be notified at least three months before the implementation of the policy and after that yearly.~~

~~(g) Any petition for rescinding or modifying a previously implemented uniform policy must be signed by at least 20% of the schools community, which may include parents, students, and staff members, and be submitted to the school governance council for consideration.~~

~~(h) Upon adoption of the uniform policy, and annually thereafter, the principal shall send a notice to parents and guardians of students, informing them of the following:~~

- ~~1. That a parent or guardian of a pupil may exempt his/her child from complying with the policy by filing a written exemption form with the principal;~~
- ~~2. That no student shall be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against because the pupil parent or guardian has chosen to exempt the pupil from complying with the policy;~~

- ~~3. Where uniforms can be purchased and the names of local discount merchants offering the most inexpensive uniforms;~~
- ~~4. The person, within the school, whom the parent or guardian may contact to request financial assistance for the purchase of a uniform.~~

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICY UNIFORMS

(a) This policy shall be in effect beginning with the start of the fall semester of 2017. The school uniform policy shall be in effect during the course of each school year. Students enrolled in the J-Term and/or summer school are not subject to this policy.

(b) There shall be established Basic Uniform Guidelines, which shall include district-wide uniform styles and colors. A student shall wear a uniform that complies with the Basic Uniform Guidelines, except that a school may select a school uniform color that a student may elect to wear in addition to the district-wide uniform color selections.

(c) A school shall notify each parent or guardian of a student to inform the parent or guardian of the uniform policy at least three months before the school's implementation of the uniform policy.

(d) A school may opt-out from complying with the policy.

(e) The parent or guardian of a student may exempt the student from complying with the policy. A student that is exempt may not be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against because the student's parent or guardian has chosen to exempt the student from complying with the policy.

(f) A school that has implemented this policy shall assist economically disadvantaged students to obtain uniforms.