



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

Board Policy Statement

5132.10 - School Attire

Approved on December 1, 2014

I. Statement of Policy

The New Britain Board of Education has determined that uniforms will be mandatory for students in grades K-8 and these students shall abstain from wearing or possessing specified items during the school day.

II. Statement of Purpose

The New Britain Board of Education has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire can further important educational interests by reducing distraction, minimizing disruption, enhancing school community and pride in the school. Additionally, the implementation of uniforms ensures that schools provide a solution for some social disparities, provide an equal opportunity within the educational setting and maintains the focus of academic achievement. The Board has approved a universal uniform that is accepted in every neighborhood school zone within New Britain school district, consisting of a white, collared polo top, and khaki or navy blue dress slacks, skirts, shorts, or skort bottoms. Each school has an optional shirt color(s) that may be worn, in addition to the universal uniform requirement, specific to that building.

III. School Uniform for Students Grades K-8.

Uniforms have been implemented within the New Britain school district and it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child/children dress in conformity with the requirements of this policy. Non-compliance with the uniform policy may result in disciplinary consequences for the child/children out of uniform. Only the universal uniform is accepted in each neighborhood school zone with the New Britain school district. Parents or guardians are welcome to purchase the optional shirt color; however shirt color(s) outside of the universal uniform may not be accepted in another neighborhood school zone. Please refer to the attached chart to verify colors accepted in your neighborhood school zone. Shorts and skorts may be worn beginning the first day of school through October 1st, and then again May 1st through the end of the school year.

IV. Staff Responsibility.

School personnel, including substitutes, should serve as role models for proper attire in the educational setting. School personnel should ensure that all students adhere to the School Attire Policy as outlined within this policy and further detailed in the student/parent handbook issued at the start of each academic year.

V. Voluntary School Uniform for High School Students, Grades 9-12.

A school principal may institute a school uniform for high school students, grades 9-12, provided that parents and staff are surveyed and indicate support for a school uniform, and further provided that the principal request and obtains approval for school uniform policy from the Board of Education. However, once school uniforms are adopted at a school, all students will be required to adhere to the required attire.

VI. Clothing Assistance.

It is the policy of the Board of Education that no student will be denied an education due to bona fide financial inability to obtain clothing that complies with the Board's Attire Policy.



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Administrative Procedure

5132.10 - School Attire

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I. Parental Responsibility

It is the recommendation of professional school personnel that parents/guardians hold their children to the highest standard in regards to school attire. Parents/guardians should support the Board's efforts to create a level playing field for all students in New Britain and reduce many existing distractions, disruptions and safety concerns relating to student attire. Parents/guardians should further support the Board's efforts to create a more serious educational environment that is conducive to learning and which helps to prepare New Britain's students for future success in the professional workplace.

II. Clothing and Items Prohibited for all Grades, Pre-K through 12

- A. In order to maintain an environment that is safe and conducive to the educational process, the Board of Education prohibits the wearing of the following for all grades in the New Britain Public School System during regular school hours:
 - B. Attire or accessories that contain messages or images that would tend to be offensive or disruptive to the educational process, including racist messages or images; sexist messages, or images; messages or images promoting the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; profane or pornographic messages or images; messages that incite violence or constitute "fighting words"; or attire or accessories that promote or signify gang affiliation.
 - C. See-through clothing, clothing revealing bare midriffs, tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, undershirts or underpants worn as outer garments, clothing with plunging necklines (front or back), sleeveless shirts, exposed clothing made of spandex material, or clothing worn in such a manner as to expose undergarments.
 - D. Bare feet, bedroom slippers, shower style flip-flops, roller blades, roller-skates, or footwear that mars floors, causes excessive noise, or creates a safety hazard.
 - E. Head covering of any kind, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, curlers, masks, visors, kerchiefs, athletic sweatbands, hats, caps, earmuffs, or hoods. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck or kept in the classroom during regular school hours. However, approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

- F. Spiked or studded bracelets, oversized or multi-finger rings, belts or chains or any other articles of attire with spikes or studs attached, "Name" or other oversized metal belt buckles, or any other items of clothing or jewelry that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students or staff.
- G. Coats, jackets, windbreakers, nylon pullovers, down vests, or other attire normally worn as outerwear. Such outerwear should not be worn, carried or kept in the classroom during regular school hours. Outerwear must be secured in the student's locker before school starts.
- H. Sunglasses, headphones, or other electronic devices not prescribed for educational purposes, or goggles, whether worn or carried.
- I. Skirts, shorts, skorts, dresses, or jumpers that are shorter than four (4) inches above the knee.

III. Mandatory School Uniform Policy for Pre-K through Grade 8 students. Grades 9 through 12 Optional

Uniforms have been implemented within the New Britain school district and it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child/children dress in conformity with the requirements of this policy. Non-compliance with the uniform policy may result in disciplinary consequences for the child/children out of uniform. Only the universal uniform is accepted in each neighborhood school zone within the New Britain school district. The universal uniform consists of a navy blue shirt or white shirt and navy pants or khaki pants. Shorts and skorts may be worn beginning the first day of school through October 1st, and then again May 1st through the end of the school year.

A. Boys in grades pre-k through grade 8 shall wear the following uniform during school hours:

- a. Solid navy blue or khaki pants or knee-length shorts. Pants and shorts must be "dress" or "docker" style. No blue jeans may be worn. All pants and knee-length shorts must be worn or belted at the waist.
- b. Solid navy blue or white shirt. Shirts must have a collar and be of a "polo" style. Hem on shirts must reach the waistline when arms are raised. Sleeves may be long or short. Tee shirts of a solid white color, without graphics, logo, or patterns may be worn under the uniform shirt. Individual school may choose an additional authorized shirt color, however, the school specific color may not be accepted at all buildings.
- c. Season appropriate footwear such as dress shoes, sneakers, or boots, may be worn. Laces on dress shoes or sneakers must be tied. Footwear may not mar floors, cause excessive noise, or create a safety hazard.
- d. Sweaters, blazers, vests or sweatshirts are optional. Any sweater or sweatshirt must be solid without pattern, stripes, graphics, and logos must be inconspicuous.
- e. Gym Day Attire: Elementary school students may wear sweats to school on scheduled gym day(s). Sweats must be solid navy blue or gray. Individual schools may choose an additional authorized color for sweats.
- f. Backpacks and/or book bags are permitted, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.

B. Girls in grades pre-k through grade 8 shall wear the following uniform during school hours:

- a. Solid navy blue or white jumpers, skirts, skorts, pants or jumpers. Pants and shorts must be “dress” or “docker” style. No blues jeans may be worn. All pants and knee-length shorts must be worn or belted at the waist.
- b. Solid navy blue or white shirt. Shirts must have a collar and be of a “polo” style. Shirts must be tucked in at all times, hem to reach the waistline when arms are raised. Sleeves may be long or short. Tee shirts of a solid white color, without graphics, logos, or patterns may be worn under the uniform shirt. Individual schools may choose an additional authorized shirt color, however, the school specific color may not be accepted at all buildings.
- c. Season appropriate footwear such as dress shoes, sneakers or boots, may be worn. Laces on sneakers must be tied, and all dress shoes must be secure around the entire foot (i.e. no backless slip on or “mules” footwear). Additionally, any elevated “heel” to a dress shoe must be no higher than one inch for safety purposes. Footwear may not mar floors, cause excessive noise, or create a safety hazard.
- d. Sweaters, blazers, vests or sweatshirts are optional. Any sweater or sweatshirt must be a solid color without pattern, stripes, graphics, and logos must be inconspicuous.
- e. Gym Day Attire: Elementary school students may wear sweats to school on scheduled gym day(s). Sweats must be solid navy blue or gray. Individual schools may choose an additional authorized color for sweats.
- f. Backpacks and/or book bags are permitted, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or the corridors.

IV. Exceptions for Designated Days or Events

Each school principal may periodically designate specific days or events (i.e. school picnic, field day, or spirit week) during which deviations from the approved uniform will be permitted, provided the principal determines that such exceptions will facilitate the event, promote school spirit, or otherwise serve an educational interest.

V. Religious and Health Accommodations

Where the bona fide religious beliefs or health needs of a student conflict with the school attire policy, the schools will provide reasonable accommodation. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify their school principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student’s bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

VI. Accommodation of Free Expression

An item of approved clothing containing an expressive message is permitted. For example, a button supporting a political candidate may be worn. However, expressive items are prohibited if, in the reasonable judgment of school officials, they may tend to disrupt or interfere with educational interests. For example, racist messages, sexist messages, gang insignia, messages promoting drug or alcohol abuse, and profane or pornographic messages or images are prohibited. Also prohibited during the school day are items of clothing that undermine the integrity of required attire, such as a windbreaker that contains expressive writing.

VII. Administrative Review

Any student who believes that their school has not reasonably accommodated his or her bona fide religious, health or financial needs or right of free expression, may submit a written objection on their own or through their parents/guardians to the school's principal. The principal shall respond in writing to the student and his or her parents/guardians within fourteen (14) days. Any student or parent/guardian dissatisfied with the principal's response may submit a written appeal to the New Britain Board of Education. The Board or its designee may request such additional information from the school, the student, and/or the parents/guardians as it deems necessary. The Board or its designee shall issue a written decision on the appeal within twenty-one (21) days.