

School Uniform Policy

Name

Institution

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Educators and many schools have opted to implement school uniforms to discourage violence in school and bullying. The best way for a school to introduce and implement school uniform policy is through getting everyone concerned, including in its implementation since their support contributes a lot to its success. Main stakeholders include parents, community and students. Parent opinion is paramount all through the exercise, getting them involved and gathering their views early affects their response to embracing of the policy. To avoid the situation when parents and children do not like the uniform, it is wise to select uniforms that will have their input, however, they must be compliant with the legislative and community requirement.

Enforcing an opt-out provision board to help in determining whether the uniform is voluntary or mandatory should be established early in the decision-making processes. A manufacturer must take into consideration the effect uniform prices have on struggling families. Their designs should not violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. In order to ensure the students comply with the uniform policies, the use of positive reinforcements should be enacted mainly through encouraging and recognizing the students who uphold and promote the behavior. On the other hand, a consistent and appropriate response needs enacting for those who fail to wear their uniforms correctly. Staff, adults and teachers in the institution should all be in the forefront in setting examples for the students by always dressing professionally and appropriately at all times (American Civil Liberties Union, 1999).

The two main beneficial aspects associated with uniform implementation include the reduction of violence in the institutions and increased focus on learning. Uniforms help decrease

the development of psychological issues, superiority and inferiority complex among students. They also reduce student distraction. Comparatively, the uniforms cost less and reduce violence in learning institutions. Dress code helps to identify those who belong to the definite institution and promote school pride, for example, in games. Social conflicts rate lowers, an example is avoiding wrong judgment by police. Through donations the uniforms can be recycled to less fortunate students. Studious environments are encouraged by the uniforms. Uniforms also help in reduction of gangs and cliques in learning institutions since they will not be easily recognizable.

The cons of uniform implementation include derogatory interpretations, especially on adolescents, which corrupts their minds. Uniforms do not allow celebration of diversity since everything conforms to one aspect. The implication of enforcing dress code rules in schools is complicated since people have different takes on dressing; concerns like life long lifestyle issues arise and there will be no adherence to the dress code. It also adds to family and personal expenditure. The uniformity eventually gets depressing and boring, occasionally interferes with religion, affects a child's individuality and creates an easy target for bullies. The uniforms restrict a child's self-expression and create alternative avenues that affect them, like tattoos and piercings (Darlene Williams, 1998).

The New Jersey constitution federal and state laws provide more rights to students than the U.S constitution does, the public school students are protected, although to a limited extent. The student's rights of expression are included in the U.S first amendment. This is in an attempt to curb the rising presence of gangs and reduce disciplinary conflict in public schools. According to empirical evidence, these dress code programs have successful implications. An example of such an endorsement includes the 1996 State of the Union passed by former President Bill

Clinton, which addresses dress codes as not only curbing violence, but also as a regulator of socioeconomic activities (David L. Brunsma, et al,1998).

A variety of fact patterns are cited repeatedly in dress code debates, even though some are unrelated to appearance conflicts or actual dressing. An example of such a case is the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*. It occurred during the Vietnam war when a group of students, led by Mary Beth Tinker, wore black arm bands to school as a way of protest. They eventually won the case since the Supreme Court found that in the conditions of substantial disruption of school operations, absence of material, the students had a protected right to wear the armbands.

In society, there is no known aspect that is good, it is just a matter of perception and timing and in this regard the school dressing code system is an appropriate means of providing security for the students, but, on the other hand, they may tend to be distracting, offensive and disruptive to the staff, students and teachers. Due to this, all clothes meant for school should be appropriate for the learning environment and age of a child. Besides, geographical location and weather should be taken into consideration, bearing in mind that both a parent and a child are responsible for the attire reflect patterns on their behavior and upbringing. In addition, since there is no distinct co-relation between uniform policies and student performance, the implemented policy should not be based on academic improvement solely, but should also aim at curbing the behavior problem exhibited mostly in middle and elementary schools in urban settings (Catherine Adams, 2010).

If used in conjunction with other behavior correction programs and all the stakeholders supporting the policy cooperate, it will increase student satisfaction with the policy and minimize

legal challenges. The decision of determining whether uniforms are necessary or not depends on individual circumstances, mainly if parents notice that their children need avenue for high expression, imposing the uniform policy may not be right since they will resent the change. On the other hand, if there is no need for high expression, then uniforms might help ease the social pressure and direct the energy to education.

Reference

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