

TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	REGULATION NUMBER: 8150-1
SUBJECT: SCHOOL ATTIRE (STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE)	DATE OF ISSUE: 04/06/01 <hr/> PREPARING OFFICE: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I. PURPOSE: Board of Education Policy No. 8150 (hereinafter "Policy") for school implementation of standardized dress.

II. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES:

- A. Principals interested in investigating the potential implementation of standardized dress code for their school (or specific grade levels within the school) shall submit written notification to the General Director of Elementary or Secondary Education.**
- B. The school Site Council and parents shall be informed of the investigation to determine the feasibility of standardized dress and given the opportunity to be involved in the discovery process and assist in establishment of the guidelines.**
- C. After the proposed guidelines are drafted, each family with children enrolled in the affected grade levels shall be given a copy of the guidelines with instructions on how to have input into the finalization of the standardized dress guidelines.**
- D. Each family unit with children enrolled in the affected grade levels shall be provided a ballot and have at least one opportunity to vote for or against implementation. At least 75% of all family units currently enrolled in the affected grade levels or in grades K-4, 6-7, or 9-11 where guidelines are proposed for the entire school must vote "yes" before a school may implement guidelines for standardized dress. No minimum percentage of ballots from family units of 5th, 8th, or 12th grade students is required because those students would not ordinarily be attending the school during the next school year.**
- E. If the guidelines receive sufficient support to be implemented each family/parent shall be provided a copy of the guidelines and its effective date. The guidelines shall not take effect earlier than the first day of the next school year following the school year during which it was approved. The guidelines shall be included in the student handbook and shall apply to all students or grade levels specified within the school.**

III. OBJECTIONS TO DRESS CODE

- A. Each parent who objects to the standardized dress guidelines will have the opportunity to present an objection in writing to the building principal for their consideration. An objecting parent has the burden to demonstrate evidence that:**
 - 1. Religious beliefs forbids compliance with the policy or;**

STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE (Continued)

- 2. An adverse financial circumstance(s) beyond qualifying for free/reduced lunch that creates an unreasonable burden on the student and thus an unreasonable barrier to their education.**
- B. Where the objection is based on religious beliefs, building principal shall require credible proof that the objection is firmly based on historical religious tenets that can be verified, which clearly precludes the student(s) from complying with the standardized dress code.**

IV. WAIVER PROCEDURE

- A. The parent completes and signs a standardized dress waiver form available in the school office stating the basis of the objection and the reasons.**
- B. The form shall notify the parent of the opportunity to appear before the building level committee or to submit further evidence to the committee in writing.**
- C. The waiver and any additional evidence submitted by the parent are reviewed by a building level committee, consisting of a building administrator, staff, parent, and/or school Site Council representative.**
- D. If the school committee denies the objection, the parent may request that the school committee submit a written report to the district level committee for review. The district level will review the school committee's decision. The decision of the district level committee is final.**
- E. If the parent chooses not to have their student comply with the decision of the district level committee or school committee, the student may transfer in accordance with Policy 8025.**
 - 1. If a transfer request is granted to a student whose parents object because of religious beliefs or economic circumstances, the District will provide transportation for the student to the new attendance site in accordance with Policy 8025.**
 - 2. If a transfer is denied because the parents have not proven that their objection is based on religious beliefs or economic circumstances, the student may be reassigned, and transportation will not be provided for the student to the new attendance site (unless it is provided for in Policy 8025).**
- F. If the waiver is granted and the student is not transferred, the building administrator will work with the parent to develop a modified version of the standardized dress that will permit substantial compliance.**

V. DISTRICT-WIDE STANDARDS:

STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE (Continued)

- A. Each school with standardized dress guidelines shall make an effort to work with community groups to assist students with economic need to obtain the standardize dress.**
- B. Each school shall establish a list of at least three (3) vendors. Any exceptions from the approved list must meet the dress code standard and be approved by the building administrator.**
- C. Students whose enrollment date at a school that has adopted a standardized dress code is after the first day of school will be given 10 school days to be in compliance with the standardized dress code guidelines. For non-compliance refer to section IV, subsection E.**
- D. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, schools electing to initiate standardized dress must comply with the following district-wide guidelines:**
 - 1. The standardized dress shall consist of a minimum of at least two solid colors for bottoms, tops, and one-piece clothing items with no logos, pictures, or writing.**
 - 2. Tops must cover the shoulders, upper chest, and must be long enough to cover skin at the waist. No see-through clothing will be permitted.**
 - 3. Clothing shall be sized correctly to fit the student. The waistband of shorts, slacks, skirts, and similar garments shall not be worn below the hips. If belts, suspenders and straps are worn, they shall be worn in place and fastened.**
 - 4. Tops, authorized by the school, reflecting the school's name or logo may be worn at the discretion of the school.**
 - 5. Standardized dress guidelines may permit free dress days to be designated from time to time under appropriate circumstances, at the discretion of the site administrator.**
- E. The standardized dress policy shall be reviewed annually by the school Site Council. If the school Site Council recommends modification or elimination of the standardized dress code then refer to the Implementation Procedures (Section II).**

VI. APPROPRIATE SCHOOL ATTIRE

- A. Whether a school has adopted guidelines for standardized dress, or not, and whether a student has been granted a waiver from a school's standardized dress guidelines, or not, students are expected to be neatly and cleanly groomed and to dress appropriately pursuant to the requirements of Board of Education Policy**

STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE (Continued)

8150. Special standards of grooming and dress may be required for participation in certain classes, extracurricular activities and other educational settings.

- B. Wearing apparel including clothing, hats, coats or other outerwear, sunglasses, pins, jewelry or other adornments may be prohibited if, in the opinion of a building administrator, the apparel:**
 - 1. Advocates or promotes violence, drugs or criminal misconduct;**
 - 2. Is associated with hate groups or gangs;**
 - 3. Is unsanitary, indecent, revealing or detractive to the extent that it interferes with the learning and teaching process;**
 - 4. Is likely to cause a disruption of the educational process by virtue of its provocative nature; or**
 - 5. Poses a potential danger to the student's health or safety or to the health or safety of others either in the manner or place in which the apparel is worn.**

- C. Students may be directed to remove prohibited apparel and may be sent home to do so. Students may also be subject to discipline for failure to follow directives made pursuant to Policy 8150 and this regulation.**