

Guilford County Board of Education
Administrative Procedure

Descriptor Term: STUDENT DRESS CODE		Descriptor Code: JCDB-P	
Date Issue: January 13, 2009	Revision Dates: March 27, 2009		

The Guilford County Schools Board of Education supports an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. One strategy for promoting a positive learning environment is to implement a standard mode of dress. The implementation of that process should include broad based support from the parents, students, faculty and staff.

DEFINITION OF TERMS: Standard Mode Of Dress (SMOD)

The standard mode of dress (SMOD) has been implemented in several of the district's schools to help alleviate peer pressure associated with fashion, to address a positive learning environment, to promote a positive school climate, to increase school safety, and to produce a safe and orderly instructional environment. The SMOD varies for each school, but it typically consists of a collared or polo-type shirt paired with khaki, black or navy pants, shorts or skirts. The pants must be fitted in the waist, and skirts or shorts must be at least knee-length. The SMOD also calls for closed-toe shoes.

PROCESS FOR APPROVAL

With the approval of the Superintendent, schools may implement plans in which students are required to wear a standard mode of dress or a school uniform at school during the regular school day. This approval is based on the recommendation from the School Based Leadership team, and predicated on sound educational reasons that would benefit the school.

Schools interested in pursuing a standard mode of dress or a school uniform must solicit parent feedback. This process of parent and faculty engagement should assure adequate time for the school to receive feedback. Before any uniform or SMOD policy is implemented, the school must do all of the following:

1. The School Leadership Team will draft a school based SMOD plan (with data to support the request) and recommend adoption to the principal.
2. The principal will convene a minimum of two parent meetings to share information with parents, to receive feedback, and to administer a parent survey. To ensure the integrity of the voting process, ballots will be distributed at these parent meetings. Schools with large student populations may choose to hold more parent meetings.
3. If at least 50% of the school's parents complete a ballot and if at least 75% of parents vote yes, the principal may submit the SMOD plan to his/her supervisor for final review and approval. If less than 50% of total parents attend the parent meetings, schools may use Connect Ed to survey parents.
4. Once approved, the principal will notify parents with a copy of the school's approved SMOD plan by May 15th of the prior school year.

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- a. Notice will include information regarding the purchase of attire.
 - b. Notice will also include the procedure for registering religious objections for the wearing of the prescribed attire.
5. Each school will publish its dress code prior to the beginning to the school year.

If a parent cannot afford SMOD clothing, the principal will investigate available community resources and consult with the parent to develop a plan.

Implementation Guidelines

There will be no “opt out” schools designated for students who do not wish to wear SMOD attire.

Schools will make efforts to implement SMOD in such manner that supports a goal of minimal disciplinary consequences for students. This may include and is not limited to making arrangements to provide students who arrive at school dressed in non SMOD clothing with replacement clothing (subject to availability) in lieu disciplinary action when appropriate.

Schools will make efforts to ensure continuity in SMOD by limiting changes to the dress code to every three to four years (except in cases where schools choose to remove SMOD).

PROCESS FOR REMOVING SMOD

Schools interested in removing SMOD will follow Steps 1-3 above. If parents vote to remove SMOD, the principal will notify parents by June 15th and provide them with copies of the dress code that will be followed for the upcoming school year.