

A Message to Newark Public Schools' Students, Parents & Staff

District to Introduce Uniforms for Elementary Students

A public hearing on uniforms was held on August 27 and parents unanimously agreed with the initiative, which is due to be ratified at the September Advisory Board Meeting.

The Newark Public Schools believes that a safe and positive school environment is a major component to the overall learning experience. One way we can improve student achievement and create a safe and disciplined learning environment is to institute a school uniform policy for students in pre-k to eighth grade. School uniforms promote school pride, create a sense of unity, save money, help students resist peer pressure, enhance the learning environment and decrease violence and theft.

Do I need to buy a school uniform now?

It is not mandated but strongly suggested. The district encourages and expects students to wear uniforms by December 1, 2008. Some parents have already purchased their children's uniforms. Beginning in September 2009, the district will mandate that students wear uniforms.

Can I buy a school uniform for the start of this school year?

The principal, along with parents and staff, will select the uniform for each individual school by September 30 at the latest. Ask at your child's school if you want to buy a uniform sooner.

What if I cannot afford a uniform(s)?

The district is examining options to assist economically disadvantaged students.

Will there be exceptions for wearing uniforms?

Yes. Exemptions may be granted for religious and medical reasons or other justifiable reasons. Parents must request the exemption in writing to the school principal and follow established procedures based on the policy. No student will be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against, nor denied attendance in school, if the student's parents or guardians choose not to participate in the uniform initiative.