

**53A-15-1102 Uniforms in schools -- Legislative finding -- Policies.**

- (1) The Legislature finds that:
  - (a) each student should be allowed to learn in a safe environment which fosters the learning process and is free from unnecessary disruptions;
  - (b) the wearing of certain types of clothing may identify students as members of youth gangs and contribute to disruptive behavior and violence in the schools;
  - (c) school uniform policies may be part of an overall program to:
    - (i) improve school safety and discipline; and
    - (ii) help avoid the disruption of the classroom atmosphere and decorum and prevent disturbances among students; and
  - (d) school uniforms may:
    - (i) decrease violence and theft among students; and
    - (ii) foster and promote desirable school operating conditions and a positive educational environment in accordance with this part.
- (2) In accordance with Section 53A-15-1103, a school may adopt a school uniform policy that requires students enrolled at that school to wear a designated school uniform during the school day.
- (3) A school uniform policy shall:
  - (a) protect students' free exercise of religious beliefs;
  - (b) specify whether the uniform policy is voluntary or mandatory for students;
  - (c) specify whether or not the uniform policy has an opt-out provision in addition to the provisions under Subsection (5); and
  - (d) include a provision for financial assistance to families who cannot afford to purchase a required uniform, which may include:
    - (i) the school providing school uniforms to students;
    - (ii) the school making used school uniforms available to students; or
    - (iii) other programs to make school uniforms available to economically disadvantaged students.
- (4) A school uniform policy under this part is not considered a fee for either an elementary or a secondary school.
- (5) A school uniform policy shall include a provision allowing a principal at any time during the school year to grant an exemption from wearing a school uniform to a student because of extenuating circumstances.
- (6)
  - (a) If a school adopts a school uniform policy under this part, that school's governing body or local school board shall adopt local appellate procedures for school actions under this part, including a denial of an exemption requested under Subsection (5).
  - (b) A person may seek judicial review of an action under this part only after exhausting the remedies provided under this Subsection (6).

Enacted by Chapter 190, 2006 General Session