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**Student Uniforms - P 7-33.3**A. Purpose

A positive learning environment is the first requirement of a good school. Young people who are safe and secure, who focus on academic achievement, and who learn basic American values are better students and better citizens.

Based on the experiences of school systems across the nation, the Lynchburg City School Board has concluded that school uniforms contribute to a positive learning environment by promoting safety, discipline, and school unity.

The Lynchburg City School Board therefore authorizes uniforms for students attending alternative programs and regular schools that have adopted school uniform programs.

Experience has shown that uniforms can create a safer environment because they help identify non-school persons who may be on the campus for disruptive purposes. Uniforms create a more disciplined environment by reducing negative competition and arguments over dress styles. Finally, school uniforms promote school unity by eliminating factors that can create economic and social divisions among individuals, such as clothing style, brands, and group colors, thus allowing students to become more focused on such shared goals as meeting academic standards, developing self confidence, and appreciating diversity.

With this policy the school division is not attempting to regulate speech or clothing; however, the school division believes that for a subject of this type, reasonable restrictions should be in place.

B. Responsibility

1. The superintendent and/or the school administration shall develop regulations for implementing this policy. The regulations will need school board approval.
2. Principals' requests for implementing school uniform programs at their schools will require school board approval.
3. Prior to presenting requests to implement uniform programs at their schools, principals shall take the following points into consideration.
  - a. The decision-making process should enable a majority of parents to provide input on the need/desire for the program.
  - b. Principals shall schedule and conduct information sessions for the school community. The sessions should give the community ample opportunities to ask questions and to give comments about implementing a

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- school uniform policy. The schools shall effectively communicate the scheduling of the informational sessions to the community.
- c. In making their implementation decisions, principals shall use data from survey(s).
  - d. The survey(s) shall attempt to assess the views of every eligible family at the schools. Each family may submit one survey.
4. Prior to implementing their school uniform programs, principals shall develop strategies that provide assistance for families who cannot purchase school uniforms.
  5. Principals, in collaboration with school leadership councils, PTO/PTA organizations, and parents, are responsible for prescribing the schools' uniform standards.
  6. Principals and their staffs shall enforce the school uniform policy and dress codes at their schools.
  7. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children comply with the school uniform policy and the dress codes at their schools.
  8. Students are responsible for following the school uniform policy and the dress codes at their schools.

## Legal Reference:

Code of Va., § 22.1-79.2 Uniforms in public schools; Board of Education guidelines  
 "A. The Board of Education shall develop model guidelines for local school boards to utilize when establishing requirements for pupils to wear uniforms. In developing these guidelines, the Board shall consider (i) ways to promote parental and community involvement, (ii) relevant state and federal constitutional concerns, such as freedom of religion and freedom of speech, and (iii) the ability of pupils to purchase such clothing.  
 B. Upon approval by the Board of the model guidelines, local school boards may establish requirements, consistent with the Board's guidelines, for the students enrolled in any of their schools to wear uniforms while in attendance at such school during the regular school day. No state funds may be used for the purchase of school uniforms."  
 (1995, cc. 508, 521, 526.)

Guidelines, "The Wearing of Uniforms in Public Schools," Adopted May 23, 1996, Virginia State Board of Education.

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Revised by School Board: May 4, 2004

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