

San Diego Unified School District
STANDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
UNIFORM POLICY RATIONALE
2008-2009

Education Code Section 35183: The Board of Education has adopted a policy that allows schools reasonable dress codes that require students to wear a schoolwide uniform or prohibit students from wearing gang-related apparel.

The Standley School administration in partnership with the Standley Planning Committee consisting of teachers, students and parents, developed a student uniform program which was implemented in the fall of 2007. This program is a proactive measure designed to make our school safer and our students more productive and successful. The Standley Planning Committee believes that a prescribed student uniform is in the best interest of our students and learning community for the following reasons:

1. ***Campus Safety and Security:*** A uniform helps make the campus safer and more secure by eliminating the gang-related clothing which can also be used to intimidate or conceal contraband. Moreover, outsiders or non-students are easily recognized on campus.
2. ***Climate for Learning:*** A uniform helps students focus on learning. It sets the tone for a proper work attitude in the classroom, reducing behavior problems and improving performance.
3. ***School Unity and Pride:*** An attractive student uniform promotes school spirit, good self-image, and school unity. Just as an athletic team uniform promote unity and spirit, so can a school uniform.
4. ***Economics:*** A uniform is economical. Comparisons show that a school uniform costs significantly less than what most parents pay for unregulated school clothing. Durability, reusability, and the year-to-year consistency also cut costs.
5. ***Homogeneity and Opportunity for Self-Expression:*** A uniform removes the status that clothing labels give to some children and serves to externally equalize all students. This provides impetus for students to find more productive outlets for expressions of individualism such as wit, intelligence, and creativity. Teachers offer many opportunities for self-expression and creativity in the academic realm, ranging from creative assignments to after-school clubs.
6. ***Modesty Standards Upheld:*** A uniform meets widely accepted standards of modesty, thus eliminating the conflicting interpretations of dress codes and the embarrassment that often is associated with “violations” of dress code.
7. ***Dressing Simplified:*** Parents cite simplification of selection as an important advantage. Even though several selections are available within the uniform, each meets the standards of the school and the approval of the home. Parents of students attending schools with a uniform program report that they have saved hundreds of dollars and eliminated the morning tug-of-war with children over what to wear.

Schools all over the country and world have adopted similar policies. In the San Diego Unified School District, many elementary and several middle schools have adopted a schoolwide uniform dress code.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization will be allowed to wear the organizational uniforms on the days that the organization has a scheduled meeting.

Uniforms are available from many retail stores in San Diego such as Target, Mervyns, K-Mart, WalMart and The Mills Campus Wardrobe Store at 7510 Hazard Center Dr.

All students are expected to wear the school uniform. Parents seeking a waiver in regard to this uniform policy must meet with the administration. Student who are “unexcused noncompliant” (not waived out and/or not following the Dressed to Learn Policy) may receive consequences for noncompliance. Parents are strongly encouraged to have their child wear the school uniform and school spirit ware to support a unified learning community.

