

# Elsinboro Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

## Students Series 5000 School Uniforms Policy 5132.5

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A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to maximize student achievement and to ensure that students reach their full potential. The Board of Education believes that a school uniform dress code is a positive and cost-effective way to create a more unified, positive, and safe school climate focused more strongly on the learning process. Research has demonstrated that school uniforms increase school safety by minimizing disruptive behavior, decreasing violence, instilling and improving discipline, and helping maintain the focus on learning. It is expected that a school uniform dress code will promote respect for teachers, build school spirit, decrease unhealthy competition involving fashion trends and dress, ease the strain on parental clothing budgets, and allow for easy identification of intruders on campus.

For all of these reasons, the Board of Education implemented a mandatory school uniform dress code for students in grades preschool through eight.

The general requirements of the mandatory school uniform for all students in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth, commencing with the effective date of this policy, will be as follows:

1. All students will be required to wear an official Elsinboro Wear shirt, or solid hunter green, kelly green, navy, black, or white collared button front, polo shirt, or blouse. Shirts must have sleeves. Tops are not to be excessively tight or oversized. Un-tucked shirts should not exceed wrist length.
2. Any shirt worn under the school uniform (layering) must be solid white, navy, black, or kelly/hunter green and is not to show below the hemline of the uniform shirt. The shirt can be either a turtleneck or a crew neck.
3. All students will be required to wear cotton blend bottoms (khaki or navy) or blue or black denim jean bottoms (pants, skirts, skorts, shorts, capris, or jumpers) or solid navy, black, green, or grey sweatpants/shorts of the appropriate size. Bottoms that are tights, leggings, yoga pants, or bike shorts are not permitted to be worn as pants. Bottoms are not to be excessively tight or oversized. Bottoms are not to have any type of embellishment such as beading, rhinestones, etc, and may not have rips, tears, cuts, or holes.
4. Shorts and skorts may be worn all year. All shorts, skirts, jumpers, and skorts will be required to be worn no shorter than **two inches above the knee**. Ankle-length leggings/tights in white, blue, black, or green may be worn under jumpers and skirts only.
5. Any shirt that does not portray the official Elsinboro Township School logo may have a small unobtrusive logo that can be covered with a quarter.
6. All students may wear full-zipped sweatshirts, sweaters, or sweater vests over a shirt or blouse as described in #1 above, and must be solid navy, black, green, or white. They are also required to be free of logos or insignias.
7. Accessories such as ball caps and neck scarves may not be worn during the school day.
8. All clothing is to be free of slits, rips, holes, tears, and cuts.
9. Outerwear (coats & jackets) is at your discretion. Outerwear must be removed during the school day.

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### Implementation and Compliance Date

At all levels, classroom teachers will be responsible for monitoring student appearance to identify those who attempt to modify their clothing during the day.

The specific requirements of the mandatory school uniform for all students in grades preschool through eighth, commencing with the effective date of this policy, will be as follows:

### ALL Students

1. All students are required to wear cotton blend bottoms (khaki or navy) or blue or black denim jean pants/shorts, or solid navy, black, green, or grey sweatpants/shorts of the appropriate size. Shorts must be worn at the appropriate length as indicated previously. Bottoms are not to have any type of embellishment, holes, rips, or tears.
2. All male students are required to wear their pants or shorts properly at the waist. Pants with elastic at the waist that do not require a belt may also be worn. Bottoms are not to be excessively tight or oversized.
3. All clothing is to be free of slits, holes, tears, and cuts.
4. All male students are required to wear a solid hunter green, kelly green, navy, black or white collared button front or polo shirt of the appropriate size. Shirts must have sleeves. Tops are not to be excessively tight or oversized. Un-tucked shirts should not exceed wrist length.
5. Any shirt worn under the school uniform (layering) must be solid white, navy, black, or kelly/hunter green and is not to show below the hemline of the uniform shirt. The shirt can be either a turtleneck or a crew neck, and of the appropriate size.
6. All male students may wear solid navy, black, green, or white zipped sweatshirts, sweaters, or sweater vests over a shirt as described above and must be free of obvious logos or insignias.
7. Accessories such as ball caps and neck scarves may **not** be worn during the school day.
8. Outerwear (coats & jackets) is at your discretion. Outerwear must be removed during the school day.

### Logos / Insignias

Shirts that do not portray the official Elsinboro Wear, Elsinboro Township School logo may have a small, unobtrusive logo that can be covered with a quarter.

### Foot Apparel

All male students are required to wear casual shoes, dress shoes, dress boots, or sneakers. Sneakers may be worn daily, but are required to be worn during physical education classes. For safety, flip-flops, open toes, or open heels are not permitted during the school day.

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### Gym Clothes – ALL Students

On their scheduled gym day, all students have the option of wearing solid navy, black, green, or grey sweatpants/shorts of the appropriate size. Students also have the option of wearing official “Elsinboro Wear” t-shirts and sweatpants on scheduled gym days. Students may also wear the mandatory uniform clothing on gym days.

### Special Occasions

On occasion, Elsinboro allows special dress days. On these days, uniforms may not be required; however, clothing must be neat and practical for school. Students must adhere to the policy in regards to length of shorts, skirts, and skorts. Shirts must have sleeves. For safety, even on special dress days, flip-flops, shoes with high heels, platform heels, open-toe, or open-heeled shoes are not permitted.

### Administrative Clause

The administration reserves the right to permit variations to the mandatory school uniform for specifically organized learning activities and weather conditions. The administration reserves the right to temporarily suspend the mandatory school uniform for special theme days and/or special activities.

The administration reserves the right to amend the mandatory school uniform policy. The administration reserves the right to restrict any item of clothing.

### Exceptions to the Uniform Policy

The only exceptions to the uniform policy are:

**Picture Day:** On these days, uniforms may not be required; however, clothing must be neat and practical for school. Students must adhere to the policy in regards to length of shorts, skirts, and skorts. Shirts must have sleeves. Sweats may not be worn. For safety, even on special dress days, flip-flops, shoes with high heels, platform heels, open toes, or open heels are not permitted.

**Field Trips:** Students are required to wear their school uniform on a field trip unless otherwise notified.

**Family Day:** Students may dress in their gym attire. Shirts may be green or gray to represent their “team” colors for the day. All shirts must have sleeves.

**Medical/Religious Exemptions:** An “Application for Exemption from the Student Uniform Policy” must be completed and submitted to school staff for review in order to be **considered** for exemption.

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### Enforcement

When a student in grades preschool - eighth is found to be out of uniform, the parent will be called about the violation and asked to bring appropriate clothing to the school for the child. If a parent can not be reached, the nurse will provide the child with appropriate clothing for the day. Repeated infractions will be addressed in the Elsinboro Township School's Code of Student Conduct.

Students should be in compliance on the first day of school. New students, enrolling during the school year, have 5 school days to comply.

### Students with Financial Need

Students with limited financial means may be provided with a district-supplied school uniform at the discretion of the CSA.

To keep parents aware, the uniform policy will be uploaded to the district's website and then updated annually. The policy will also be sent home at the start of each school year. Preschool, kindergarten, and newly enrolled students will be provided with the uniform policy prior to their first day.

### Legal References

- NJSA 18A:11-1 General Mandatory Powers and Duties
- 18A:11-7 Findings relative to school dress codes
- 18A:11-8 Adoption of dress code policy for school permitted
- 18A:11-9 Prohibition of gang-related apparel
- 18A:37-1 Submission of pupils to authority

### Possible Cross References

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