

FACTS AND POLICIES RELATED TO THE ADOPTION OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS

More states, school districts and schools across the Nation are adopting school uniform policies and are citing this strategy as a positive way to improve school climate, reduce the number of fights over clothing, and to increase school attendance.

In a survey last year of elementary and middle school principals from ten states, those principals of schools with a uniform policy tended to rate their schools more positively on issues such as classroom discipline, student safety, attendance, peer pressure, and the image of their school in the community, than their counterparts in schools without uniform policies.

Examples of continued effort to implement school uniform policies include:

- In Washington, D.C., the District School Superintendent has requested that the principals of the city's 146 public schools consider the adoption of a policy that would require students to wear school uniforms or adhere to a strict dress code.
- In Chicago, four out of five public schools require school uniforms.
- In Providence, more than 95% of the school's 320 students in K – 5, and 100% of the school's faculty, wear school uniforms at George J. Peters Elementary School.
- In Albuquerque, after a student fashion show where students modeled a variety of uniform clothing options, school board members voted unanimously to approve a plan that calls for a standardized or uniform dress.
- In Massachusetts, the Governor has proposed legislation for next year that would require all public schools to adopt uniforms unless their local parent councils vote to opt out.
- In Long Beach, where school uniforms have been required in elementary and middle schools since 1994, there was a reported decrease of 91% in a number of juvenile crimes committed on school grounds, between years 1991 and 1998.
- In New York City, this year all children in the city's 670 elementary schools are required to wear school uniforms.
- In New Orleans, almost every teacher at West St. John Elementary School wears a school uniform, although the teacher uniform policy is not mandatory.
- In San Francisco, students in 34 of the city's 115 schools wear uniforms, even though the city doesn't have a school uniform policy in place.

- According to a recent survey by a New York marketing information company, cities such as Birmingham, Dayton, and San Antonio helped contribute to \$900 million of national retail sales for school uniforms.