



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 11, 2019  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
From: Abdulsaleem Hasan, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field Services

## School Uniform Policies

According to New Jersey law, school districts may adopt a school uniform policy. When districts adopt such policies, the policies apply to all students (pre-k to grade 12) in the district. In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8(a)* these policies shall include provisions to assist economically disadvantaged students. Additionally, *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8(b)* states, "The board of education may provide a method whereby parents may choose not to comply with an adopted school uniform policy. If the board provides such a method, a student shall not be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against nor denied admittance to school if the students' parents choose not to comply with the school uniform policy."

### Key steps/actions

The NJDOE advises districts to review its school uniform policy to ensure it complies with *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8*. Specifically, districts that adopt school uniform policies need to be aware of the following:

- 1) Districts with school uniform policies have an affirmative duty to assist economically disadvantaged students; and
- 2) If a district's school uniform policy includes a method for parents not to comply with the policy, then a student cannot be punished, discriminated against or denied admittance to school when his/her parent exercises that option.

If a parent believes that the local board of education has violated its school uniform policy or has applied the policy an arbitrary or unreasonable way in connection with his/her child, the parent may file a petition of appeal with the Commissioner of Education.

### Contact information

Districts wanting to discuss their policies can reach out to their NJDOE [County Office of Education](#). Districts can also email their questions to the Division of Early Childhood Education at [doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov](mailto:doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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