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# Back to School:

## School uniforms required in Springfield this year

### *Parents reminded as shopping season starts*

August 13, 2008 – School starts September 2, 2008, and Springfield Public Schools officials are reminding parents that this year for the first time, students will be required to wear school uniforms.

As back-to-school shopping gets underway, Springfield Superintendent Dr. Alan Ingram said parents should remember that students will be wearing uniforms this year as the school district works to help children focus on learning and help schools stay safer.

The Springfield School Committee made the decision to switch to uniforms this year after public opinion surveys and public discussions during the last school year.

“The research shows that school uniforms help keep schools safer and more disciplined and help children focus more on their school work,” Dr. Ingram said. “We’ve heard from all over the country that schools where uniforms are worn tend to be quieter, more focused learning environments with less tension and strife over how students dress. We’re here to make sure children learn and that they stay safe at school. The uniform policy will help us to do both.”

Dr. Ingram said the new dress code also will help school officials to better keep an eye on students and to spot intruders.

Students in grades one through 12 start classes September 2. Kindergartens start September 8. Preschools start September 9.

Under the new uniform policy, no oversized clothing, cargo pants, jeans, sweat pants or clothing with any logos, pictures or messages will be allowed. Shirts must be tucked into pants. Shoes must fit securely on the foot and no open-toed shoes, flip flops or sandals will be allowed. “Doo rags” and colored head bands and wristbands are prohibited, and coats, jackets, hooded sweatshirts, caps and hats cannot be worn during school.

Elementary school students will wear navy or tan pants, shorts and skirts, and light blue or white shirts. Middle school colors will be black and tan. In high school, students will wear tan or navy pants and black, gold, blue, grey, navy or red shirts, depending on the school (see specifics below).

**Parents can learn find more details of the new uniform policy at the school district’s website, [www.sps.springfield.ma.us](http://www.sps.springfield.ma.us) or by calling the school.**

## **ELEMENTARY**

- **PANTS** – Navy or Tan must be worn with a belt at the waist and belts must be through the loops. Pants can be cotton, cotton blend or corduroy. Absolutely **NO** cargo pants, jeans, sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SKIRTS, JUMPERS OR SKORTS** – Navy or Tan; can be cotton, cotton blend or corduroy; must be knee level or longer. Blouse or polo must be worn under the jumper. Absolutely **NO** hip huggers, cargo pants, baggies, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SHORTS** – Navy or Tan knee length. Shorts must be worn with a belt at the waist and belts must be through the loops. Shorts can be cotton, cotton blend or corduroy. Absolutely **NO** cargo pants, jeans, sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SHIRTS** – Light Blue or White plain collared, polo shirt, dress shirt, long or short sleeve. Shirts must be tucked into pants. Absolutely **NO** logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SWEATSHIRT OR SWEATERS CAN BE PULLOVER OR ZIPPERED** – Navy. **NO** logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SHOES OR SNEAKERS** – Shoes/Sneakers must fit securely on the foot. Shoes with open toes or backless shoes (including flip flops, sandals, mules and slides) will not be allowed. Shoes may be laced or buckled. **NO** Heelies or rollers.

### **NO OVERSIZED CLOTHING WILL BE ALLOWED**

**No colored wrist bands, neck beads, head bands, or doo rags are allowed. The principal has a right to stop any pattern, for example groups wearing identical earrings, chains, beads, bracelets, etc. or anything that may be mistaken for gang affiliation.**

### **NO COATS, JACKETS, HOODED SWEATSHIRTS, CAPS OR HATS ARE TO BE WORN DURING SCHOOL**

### **ENFORCEMENT**

The school will strive to achieve full compliance through the use of positive reinforcement measures, and will resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures and supports fail to assure compliance. No student will be considered non-compliant with the uniform policy in the following instances:

- When the student wears the dress of a nationally recognized youth organization or activity, such as boys/girls scouts, on regular meeting days.
- When the student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the school policy for religious or health considerations. A student may wear religious attire.
- When a student is on school grounds outside of normal school hours, appropriate attire is required.
- When a field trip or school event may require specialized clothing, appropriate attire is required.

### **NOT IN COMPLIANCE**

- **FIRST OCCURRENCE** – A call will be made to the parent/guardian to bring in clothes. A letter will be sent home reinforcing the uniform policy.
- **SECOND OCCURRENCE** – Call home to have parents bring in clothes and remind them that student must adhere to the school uniform policy.
- **THIRD OCCURRENCE** – Parent is notified and student will receive detention.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- **PANTS** – Black or Tan - Pants must be worn with belts at the waist and belts must be through the loops. **NO** studded belts or large belt buckles. Pants can be cotton, cotton blend or corduroy. Absolutely **NO** cargo pants, jeans, sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SKIRTS, JUMPERS OR SKORTS** – Black or Tan; can be cotton, cotton blend or corduroy; must be knee level or longer. Blouse or polo must be worn under the jumper. Absolutely **NO** hip huggers, cargo pants, baggies, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SHORTS** – Black or Tan knee length. Shorts must be worn with a belt at the waist and must be through the loops. **NO** studded belts or large belt buckles. Shorts can be cotton, cotton blend or corduroy. Absolutely **NO** cargo pants, jeans, sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SHIRTS** – Black, Blue or White plain collared, polo shirt, dress shirt, long or short sleeve. Shirts must be tucked into the pants. Absolutely **NO** logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SWEATSHIRT OR SWEATERS CAN BE PULLOVER OR ZIPPERED** – Navy or White. **NO** logos, insignias, pictures or messages.
- **SHOES OR SNEAKERS** - Shoes/sneakers must fit securely on the foot. Shoes with open toes, or backless shoes, (including flip flops, sandals, mules, and slides) will not be allowed. **NO** heelies or rollers.

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- When the student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the school policy for religious or health considerations. A student may wear religious attire
- When a student is on school grounds outside of normal school hours, appropriate attire is required
- .When a field trip or school event may require specialized clothing, appropriate attire is required.

### **NOT IN COMPLIANCE**

- **FIRST OCCURRENCE** – The school will contact the parent/guardian to restate our policy and request that proper clothing be delivered to the school. The student will change into appropriate clothing.
- **SECOND OCCURRENCE** – Parent or guardian will bring in appropriate clothing in order for the student to attend class. Student will receive detention (lunch, before/after school).
- **THIRD OCCURRENCE** – Parent or guardian will bring in appropriate clothing to school. Student will be given in-house suspension

- **FOURTH OCCURRENCE** – This is considered defiance and Code of Conduct will be applied  
Gym attire must reflect the basic colors in the dress policy. Allowances will be made for gray sweat pants and sweatshirts (for gym only).

## **HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Central High School** – Pants, Skirts or Shorts will be Tan. Shirts will be Black Polo or buttoned dress shirt, long or short sleeve. Skirts and Shorts must be knee length. Pants and shirts must fit appropriately. Shirts must be tucked into the pants and pants must be worn with a belt at the waist. **NO** studded belts or large belt buckles. Absolutely **NO** baggies, cargo pants, jeans or sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.

**Putnam** – Freshmen will wear Navy Pants, Skirts or Shorts. Skirts and Shorts must be knee length. Shirts will be Grey Polo, buttoned dress shirt, long or short sleeve. Upper classmen will wear Navy Pants, Skirts or Shorts. Shirts will be Gold or Blue (light hue) Polo, buttoned dress shirt, long or short sleeve. Pants and shirts must fit appropriately. Shirts must be tucked into the pants and pants must be worn with a belt at the waist. **NO** studded belts or large belt buckles. Absolutely **NO** baggies, cargo pants, jeans or sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.

**High School of Science & Technology** – Tan Pants, Skirts or Shorts. Shirts will be Navy Polo, buttoned dress shirts, long or short sleeve. Skirts and Shorts must be knee length. Pants and shirts must fit appropriately. Shirts must be tucked into the pants and pants must be worn with a belt at the waist. **NO** studded belts or large belt buckles. Absolutely **NO** baggies, cargo pants, jeans or sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.

**High School of Commerce** – Pants, Skirts or Shorts will be Tan. Skirts and Shorts must be knee length. Shirts will be Red Polo, buttoned dress shirt, long or short sleeve. Pants and shirts must fit appropriately. Shirts must be tucked into the pants and pants must be worn with a belt at the waist. **NO** studded belts or large belt buckles. Absolutely **NO** baggies, cargo pants, jeans or sweat suit pants, pajamas, logos, insignias, pictures or messages.

### **NO OVERSIZED CLOTHING WILL BE ALLOWED.**

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The school will strive to achieve full compliance through the use of positive reinforcement measures, and will resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures and supports fail to assure compliance. No student will be considered non-compliant with the uniform policy in the following instances:

- When the student wears the dress of a nationally recognized youth organization or activity, such as JROTC, on regular meeting days.
- When the student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the school policy for religious or health considerations. A student may wear religious attire.

- When a student is on school grounds outside of normal school hours, the basic dress policy will be in effect.
- When a field trip or school event may require specialized clothing, appropriate attire is required.

**NOT IN COMPLIANCE**

- **FIRST OCCURRENCE** – Parent/guardian will bring appropriate clothing to school and student will receive detention/demerit.
- **SECOND OCCURRENCE** – Parent or guardian will bring in appropriate clothing to school and student will receive 3 hours of detention/demerit.
- **THIRD OCCURRENCE** – Parent or guardian will bring in appropriate clothing to school and student will receive 1 day in-house.
- **FOURTH OCCURRENCE** – This is considered defiance and Code of Conduct will be applied.

**UNIFORMS CAN BE PURCHASED IN  
ANY DEPARTMENT OR DISCOUNT STORE.**