

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REGULATION No. 519.1  
STUDENTS**

**STANDARD STUDENT ATTIRE**

Standard Student Attire (SSA) provides an option for those school communities that would like to have students wear SSA for the purposes of increasing student achievement, promoting safety and enhancing a positive school climate. Exemption from the SSA may be permitted for students on account of medical or religious reasons.

As provided in this regulation, school sites may establish protocols that requires students to wear SSA. It is expected that the decision to implement SSA reflects the desires of the school community. Each school that chooses to participate will separately determine appropriate student attire and programs of assistance for families seeking help in obtaining required articles of clothing for their students. The implementation of an SSA policy at a specific school site must adhere to the processes and parameters set forth in this regulation.

A. Standard Student Attire Policy Determination and Continuation Process:

Prior to the implementation of an SSA policy, and every third year following adoption of an SSA policy, the school site will:

1. Establish an SSA site-based committee (SSA Committee) consisting of students, parents, staff and administration. The Committee shall consist of an odd number of members with a minimum of eleven (11) members, including four (4) parents, two (2) students, three (3) representatives of the certified staff appointed by the certified staff of the school, one (1) representative of the classified staff appointed by the classified staff of the school, and one (1) Trustee (preferably the Trustee assigned to report on the activities of the site), all acting in an advisory capacity to the site administrator.
2. The purpose of the SSA Committee shall be to provide input and involvement throughout the decision-making process. The SSA Committee shall be provided available research on the advantages and disadvantages of an SSA policy. The site administrator and the SSA Committee shall openly communicate with all stakeholders on all issues regarding SSA protocol and actively seek their input, suggestions, and recommendations through surveys, meetings, and other appropriate means.

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### 3. Timeline:

- a. By November 15 – Create a site-based SSA Committee as described in Section A.1.
  - b. By January 15 – Conduct a survey of families within the zoned school boundaries, including families having students transitioning from feeder schools. At least twenty (20) percent of the surveys sent to families that make up the population of the student body must be returned and fifty-five percent (55%) of the surveys returned must agree to implement the SSA policy. The initial survey shall pose the single question of whether the parents/guardians are in favor of the school adopting a school SSA policy. Pro and con statements and a description of the required Standard Student Attire will be included in the survey. The survey will be designed, administered, and reported by the Director of Accountability and Assessment.
  - c. By February 15 – Publish results of the survey. Hold school/community meetings to gather additional input.
  - d. By May 15 – Notify families of final determination. Notification of the decision whether to implement an SSA policy for the following year will be given to families that make up the population of the student body, including families having students transitioning from feeder schools, by U.S. Mail, postmarked no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> of the school year then in progress. The most current student address on file will be used. Notice shall also be publicized on the District website and sent home, for elementary and middle school students, with other school papers. This notification shall also identify the SSA clothing and accessory requirements so that SSA articles may be purchased during the summer months prior to the start of the school year. The color and type of all SSA clothing and accessories shall be clearly specified.
  - e. Schools adopting an SSA policy shall survey their communities every third year. Pro and con statements and description of the required SSA will be included in the survey along with recommendations for change, if any, proposed by the SSA Committee or site administrator. The survey shall pose the following three questions:
    - i. Whether to continue implementation of the SSA policy;
    - ii. Whether to discontinue the SSA policy; or
    - iii. Whether to continue implementation of the SSA policy with the site administrator’s recommendations for change, or subject to such other changes as the responder may include in the survey response.
4. A decision to implement an SSA policy shall be made jointly by the site administrator and the SSA Committee. The specifics related to student dress shall be determined as provided in Section B below, and a report thereon shall be made to the District’s Board of Trustees at a duly noticed meeting.

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5. After a minimum of one (1) year of implementation, with the approval of the site administrator and the SSA Committee, a school may initiate the survey process in order to determine whether to discontinue implementation of a mandatory SSA policy prior to the expiration of the identified survey cycle.
6. Failure to follow the prescribed process will result in the school adhering to Regulation 519; Dress and Grooming, to begin at the start of the next school year.
7. The survey requirement referenced above shall not apply to school sites which provide services in an alternative school setting/location as identified by the Superintendent. It is not practical to survey families at these schools due to the temporary assignment of the student population. Therefore, at those schools, the site administrator shall have the authority to adopt an SSA policy.

### **B. Dress Requirements**

The site administrator and the SSA Committee shall determine SSA requirements, consistent with the following:

1. All jeans, pants, skirts, shorts, and trousers must be secured at waist level, have no rips or tears that expose undergarments, and must be no shorter than mid-thigh; sagging is strictly prohibited.
2. Schools will notify families of special occasions exempt from wearing SSA; i.e. spirit days, etc.
  - a. Days when school pictures are taken are exempt from SSA.
3. Colors and styles of outerwear, such as sweaters, jackets, and coats are not required to meet the color or style specifications of SSA. Site administrators, working with students and families, may determine when outerwear may be worn indoors. Administrators, teachers, and staff may use their discretion as appropriate, based on the temperature in the facility.
4. Colors and styles of shirts and pants shall be determined by the SSA Committee, acting with the approval of the site administrator and at all times subject to the overall approval of the Superintendent, who shall report to the Board of Trustees.

### **C. Compliance Measures**

1. Students will be expected to wear the SSA during regular school hours while in attendance at school or school approved functions. Regular school hours are considered to be the accepted regular school academic day. Violations of SSA requirements will result in action aligned with the school-based progressive discipline plan.

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2. Each school site should strive to achieve full compliance through use of positive reinforcement measures and should resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, schools shall communicate with families so that the expectations, rationale, and benefits of an SSA policy are fully understood by the students and their families.
3. Since the intent of the protocol is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not wearing SSA from receiving the education to which he/she is entitled, no student shall receive a lowered academic grade as the result of not complying with the SSA protocol. In addition, prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student who is not in compliance with the protocol, a conference will be held with the student to give him/her the opportunity to change into SSA. Additionally, prior to initiating disciplinary action, a conference with the parent/guardian must be held by the site administrator to ensure the parent/guardian is aware of the protocol and possible consequences for non-compliance.
4. Exemptions
  - a. Parents/guardians may apply for their children to be exempt from the SSA policy in the following instances:
    - (1) When the parent/guardian can demonstrate a bona fide religious objection to wearing the SSA, or
    - (2) When wearing SSA is inappropriate due to a verified medical or physical condition.
  - b. Exemption Procedures
    - (1) If a parent/guardian seeks an exemption based upon a bona fide objection, a request for exemption must include a written statement explaining the religious belief, medical or physical condition, and how it adversely affects the student from complying with the SSA protocol.
    - (2) The parent/guardian shall meet with the site administrator to discuss the SSA protocol and the nature of the objections. The purposes of the meeting are to (a) ensure that the parents/guardians understand the reason for and goals of the SSA policy; (b) verify the accuracy of the information contained in the parent/guardian written request for an exemption; and (c) prevent fraud or misrepresentation.
    - (3) A decision to grant or deny the request for an exemption will be made by the site administrator, and is subject to review by the Superintendent.

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D. Financial Considerations

1. No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear SSA by reason of financial hardship.
2. Each school site shall:
  - a. Develop a procedure to identify families in need of financial assistance;
  - b. Work with staff, the local school community and business partners to identify resources for assisting families, and
  - c. Assist those identified families to purchase the approved attire.

NRS 392.415

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October 22, 2013

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