

School Safety, Student Health and Human Services and
Human Relations Committee

Response to the Board Motion to



**“ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY A PRE-K
THROUGH 8TH GRADE DISTRICTWIDE MANDATORY
SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY”**

Earl R. Perkins,
Assistant Superintendent
Office of the Chief Operating Office
April 23, 2009



Background

- November 13, 2008, City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo and Board Member Marguerite LaMotte presented to the Board “Implement a district-wide school uniform policy”
- (now therefore, be it) **Resolved**, That the Los Angeles Unified School Board and the Superintendent will convene a task force to study a district-wide mandatory uniform policy for Pre-K through 8th grade. The task force will report back to the School Board within 30 days of the date of this Motion.
- **Reasoning:** School uniforms are an essential step toward improving the safety, health, and education of our City’s young people and toward securing our City’s schools.

Currently In Place

Bulletin 2549- Student Dress Codes/Uniforms (5/29/06)

- Each individual school, with input from the administration, faculty, school site staff, parents/guardians, and students where appropriate, may determine whether to follow the District's student dress code and/or establish a student uniform policy.
- School uniform policies are voluntary.
- If a student's parent or guardian exercises the right to opt out of the school uniform policy, the student must follow the student dress code.



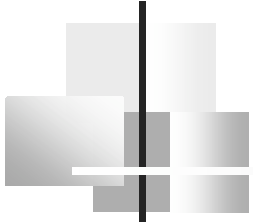
Bul-2549: Criteria for School Uniform Policies

- School uniform selected by principal, certificated and classified employee representatives, parents/guardians, and students (if secondary)-The Local School Leadership Site Council may fulfill this function. School uniform policy must specify:
 - Types and colors of uniforms
 - Requirements for jackets/outer garments
 - Optional articles of attire, if any
 - Clearly stated, appropriate consequences for failure to comply with the school uniform policy.



Bul-2549: Criteria for School Uniform Policies cont.

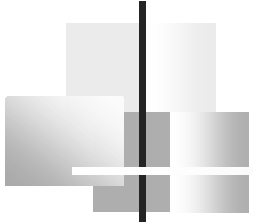
- Procedures to provide uniforms to economically disadvantaged students at no cost.
- Methods to facilitate recycling of uniforms with the school community.
- Provision for allowing students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day.
- Procedures to allow for immediate enrollment of students, including students who are homeless or in the foster care system, even if the student does not have a school uniform at the time of enrollment.
- Provision for opting out of the school uniform policy, including notification to all parents/guardians at least annually.



The Task Force

- Goal 1 – Identify and convene a Task Force to study the District-wide School Uniform Policy for Pre-K through 8th grade.

- Goal 2 – The Task Force will:
 - Assess current school level practices
 - Report back to the board on action steps



The Task Force

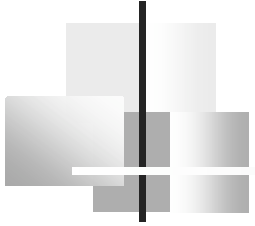
- The first meeting of the Task Force was held on January 22, 2009

- Participants include:
 - Kelly Barnes
 - Michael Eugene
 - Cheri Thomas
 - Earl R. Perkins
 - Wayne Scott Moore
 - Christopher Ortiz, Elementary School Principal
 - Raul Fernandez, Middle School Principal



Next steps for the Uniform Task Force:

- Review Education Code sections and related cases regarding school uniforms for any changes to current policy
- Review other urban-like school districts
 - San Juan Unified SD
 - San Diego Unified SD
 - Long Beach Unified SD
- Update Board on findings June 2009



Questions?