



Education Today

Dress Codes = School Spirit, Self-Esteem

(NAPSA)—A great way to get youngsters into the mood for learning, many parents and teachers have found, is to have them dress for school success.

This may be one reason more and more public as well as private schools are asking students to wear a uniform or adhere to a dress code. Others cite the way standardized dress codes build confidence and self-esteem, improve behavior, encourage feelings of belonging, raise student and teacher expectations and increase school spirit. Uniforms not only increase school spirit, they create a sense of equality and unity among students regardless of their economic status.

Interestingly, the current uniform trend first began in urban areas in which district schools were experiencing problematic behavior. These districts successfully improved their school environments through programs that included the implementation of dress codes with uniform colors and styles.

Shortly after the success of these urban school districts, several nearby suburban districts initiated uniform programs as well. The trend has spread and now stricter dress codes are at work in school systems nationwide.



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Many parents are also glad they don't have to spend so much money on their kids' clothes or spend time arguing about what to wear to school. The students don't have to worry about whether their clothes are fashionable enough for their friends, since everyone dresses alike.

Fortunately, schoolwear for uniforms, dress codes or spirit days can be stylish, easy to care for and comfortable. For example, you can now find a large selection of IZOD school uniforms at JCPenney, in both regular and special sizes. The line is available in many stores and online, 24-7, at www.jcpenney.com/uniforms.