

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 311

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits public schools from denying admittance to student due to tardiness or violation of dress code or school uniform policy.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on February 13, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning school disciplinary actions, amending
2 P.L.1996, c.93, and supplementing chapter 11 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1996, c.93 (C.18A:11-8) is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 2. a. A board of education ¹or a board of trustees of a charter
11 school¹ may adopt a dress code policy to require that students wear a
12 school uniform if the policy is requested by the principal, staff and
13 parents of an individual school and if the board determines that the
14 policy will enhance the school learning environment. Any policy
15 adopted which requires the wearing of a uniform shall include a
16 provision to assist economically disadvantaged students. The board
17 shall hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of the policy and shall
18 not implement the policy with less than three months' notice to the
19 parents or guardians of the students. The specific uniform selected
20 shall be determined by the principal, staff, and parents of the
21 individual school.

22 b. The board of education ¹or board of trustees of a charter
23 school¹ may provide a method whereby parents may choose not to
24 comply with an adopted school uniform policy. If the board provides
25 such a method, a student shall not be penalized academically or
26 otherwise discriminated against **nor denied admittance to school** if
27 the student's parents choose not to comply with the school uniform
28 policy.

29 c. A dress code policy adopted pursuant to this section shall not
30 preclude students who participate in a nationally recognized youth
31 organization which is approved by the board of education from
32 wearing organization uniforms to school on days that the organization
33 has scheduled a meeting.

34 (cf: P.L.1996, c.93, s.2)

35

36 ¹2. Section 3 of P.L.1996, c.93 (C.18A:11-9) is amended to read
37 as follows:

38 3. A board of education or board of trustees of a charter school
39 may adopt a dress code policy to prohibit students from wearing,
40 while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory
41 which indicates that the student has membership in, or affiliation
42 with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law
43 enforcement agency shall advise the board upon its request, of
44 gangs which are associated with criminal activities.¹

45 (cf: P.L.1996, c.93, s.3)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted February 13, 2020.

1 ¹**[2]** 3¹. (New section) A student shall not be denied
2 admittance to ¹a public¹ school due to tardiness.

3

4 ¹**[3]** 4¹. (New section) A student shall not be denied
5 admittance to ¹a public¹ school due to a violation of a school
6 uniform policy or dress code policy, except as may be provided
7 pursuant to a dress code policy adopted pursuant to section 3 of
8 P.L.1996, c.93 (C.18A:11-9).

9

10 ¹**[4.]** 5¹. This act shall take effect immediately.