

**Sec. 1. PURPOSE**

UT Tyler University Academy’s dress and grooming standards are designed to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, minimize safety hazards, and provide a dress standard that offers flexibility for the parent and student. Students must come to school cleanly and neatly groomed and wearing clothing that will not be a health or safety hazard to the student or others, and that will not distract from or interfere with the educational atmosphere of the school.

**Sec. 2. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The Superintendent or designee shall establish dress and grooming standards for all students. Violations of dress and grooming standards shall be described in the Student Code of Conduct. Principals may, at their discretion, impose additional reasonable dress and grooming standards. Any student dress or grooming policy, including dress or grooming policy for an extracurricular activity, may not discriminate against a hair texture or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race. The term “protective hairstyle” includes braids, locks, and twists.

**Sec. 3. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Principals, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate dress and grooming standards established for such an activity may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the Principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct.

**Sec. 4. UNIFORMS**

If the Board determines that requiring school uniforms would improve the learning environment at UT Tyler University Academy, the Board may adopt rules that require students at that school to wear school uniforms. Students shall wear uniforms beginning on the 90th day after the date on which the Board adopts the rules.

**a) *Funding***

The rules adopted by the Board must designate a source of funding to be used to provide uniforms for educationally disadvantaged students.

**b) *Exemptions***

A parent or guardian of a student assigned to a school where uniforms are required may choose for the student to be exempted from the uniform requirement. In order to exercise this option, the parent or guardian must provide a written statement that states a religious or philosophical objection to the uniform requirement that the Board determines is bona fide.