

RAINBOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE

1. PURPOSE & PHILOSOPHY

a. Elementary and middle schools in Schweinfurt, Bad Kissingen, and Heidelberg implemented uniform policies during School Year 1999-2000. Interested parents at Rainbow School asked the School Advisory Committee (SAC) to survey parents to gauge the interest in school uniforms. During the Fall SAC conducted a survey that indicated a strong interest in uniforms. In an effort to ascertain the true level of support for or against uniforms, a more detailed survey was sent out to parents in early April, 2000. Those parents who did not reply were then asked to complete the survey from 24-28 April, 2000 during School Registration. Votes were counted on children currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through fifth grades, who are returning to Rainbow School for the next school year. Parents' votes were counted as one per child enrolled at Rainbow. Results of the survey were:

81% of surveys were completed and returned;
72.4% were in favor of school uniforms.

b. Based on the positive feedback received from the survey, the SAC recommended to the Principal that a uniform policy be adopted. In meeting the concerns of parents and at the recommendation of the SAC, the Principal accepted the recommendation.

c. The objective of the Rainbow Elementary School is to promote a more effective learning environment by:

- (1) Placing students of different socio-economic levels on an even footing with regard to their appearance.
- (2) Eliminating the fashion show behavior exhibited by many youth in school, which is a distraction to learning.
- (3) Increasing self-confidence and self-esteem by reducing peer pressure.
- (4) Reinforcing that the primary purpose of school is for children to receive an education.
- (5) Supporting the parents of Rainbow who by an overwhelming majority (72.4%) indicated their support for a school uniform policy.
- (6) Continuing to foster good order, discipline, values, and behaviors in our students.

(7) Continuing to endeavor to improve academic performance by our students. Adopting uniforms may enhance the educational environment of our students and promote learning in the classroom.

2. SCHOOL UNIFORM All items that are part of the basic uniform will be stocked by **AAFES**. The optional items (the sweaters) may or may not be a part of their stock. Parents may purchase uniform items from any source of their own choosing, so long as the clothing conforms to the basic uniform style. Other stores or catalogs include, but are not limited to, Lands End, Walmart, J.C. Penney, and Target. All items (except PTSA-sold shirts and sweatshirts with school insignia) will be without a visible logo longer than one inch. The Uniform will be clean, neat, serviceable, and in good order (no holes, tears, excessive fading, slits deliberately cut, frayed or ragged), and worn properly. This includes pant legs that are cut off and not hemmed. The wearing of hats, gloves, scarves, rain coats, and winter coats outside will be IAW School Dress Code. This Uniform Policy applies to all functions on school property and during all school activities in other locations unless otherwise notified in writing. The Principal reserves the right to make judgments concerning the wear of uniforms on school field trips.

The school uniform will be as follows:

a. LEG WEAR (Navy, Black, or Khaki)

(1) Acceptable Leg wear:

- (a) Cotton, Cotton/polyester or corduroy long pants (Dockers or Chino style) (with or without reinforced knees)
- (b) Jumpers
- (c) Skirts
- (d) Skorts (Bermuda length - just above the knee)
- (e) Walking shorts (Bermuda length - just above the knee)

(2) Unacceptable Leg wear:

- (a) No Denim
- (b) No Jeans or pants or shorts of similar style or material
- (c) No Plaids or prints
- (d) No sweat pants or gym outfits

b. SHIRTS (Red, White, Blue, Navy or any other solid color)

- (1) Polo shirt – (short sleeved or long sleeved).
- (2) Oxford shirt – (short sleeved or long sleeved).
- (3) Turtleneck (or mock turtleneck).
- (4) Blouse with a round Peter Pan collar – (short-sleeved or long sleeved).
- (5) Official girls' uniform blouse (white blouse with navy or red trim) sold by AAFES.
- (6) Official PTSA t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts—are allowed on school days, but not on off-post field trips.

c. BELTS: (Brown, Navy or Black) Belts must be worn with all belt-looped pants.

d. FOOTWEAR:

- (1) Regular socks, knee socks, tights (in white, red, or any other dark solid color)
- (2) Shoes – No black-soled shoes or tennis shoes that leave marks, platform shoes, platform tennis shoes, flip-flop sandals, or dress shoes with slick soles will be worn.

e. PLAIN KNIT V-NECK, CREW NECK OR CARDIGAN SWEATERS OR SWEATER VESTS (OPTIONAL) (Any style in Red, White, Navy Blue, or any other Solid Color).

- (1) Sweaters will be worn over a uniform shirt or blouse.
- (2) Sweaters may be made out of cotton, cotton-polyester, acrylic, or wool without brand insignia or with brand insignia not larger than one inch long

f. JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

- (1) Jewelry must be discreet.
- (2) Under no circumstances will any gang, drug, violence, or counter-culture symbols or items be worn, kept in the uniform, or at school. Of course, that includes weapons, weapon look-a-likes, and things that can be used as a weapon including small pocketknives or penknives, folding and non-folding tools, real or plays guns, etc. Even Scouting knives are not allowed at school. (For further information see the school handbook.)

3. COMPLIANCE

- a. Rainbow Elementary School parents voted for school uniforms. Compliance is expected of all students. Each student will be required to wear the prescribed uniform while attending Rainbow Elementary School unless he or she receives an approved exception to policy. (See Appendix.)
- b. Parents are expected to enforce the uniform.
- c. Any issue which cannot be resolved between the school administrator and parent will be elevated to the Base Support Battalion Commander and/or the Schools Officer for further evaluation.
- d. A student remains in compliance with the school uniform policy under the following circumstances:
 - (1) When the student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the uniform policy by the procedures outlined in Section Seven (7) of this policy. Some examples of exemptions are as follows:
 - (a) When noncompliance derives from financial hardship.
 - (b) When wearing the school uniform violates a student's sincerely held religious beliefs.
 - (c) When wearing the school uniform violates a student's medical profile.
 - (2) When a student wears a uniform of a nationally or locally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts on days approved by the school.
 - (3) Newly enrolled students in their first two weeks of attendance at school.
 - (4) The Principal may approve occasional special days where exceptions to this uniform policy may be allowed for some or all of the students.
- e. Students who are home schooled and attend any classes within the Rainbow School are expected to be in full compliance with the uniform dress code if they attend more than five hours of class per week.

4. SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY DEVELOPMENT: The Principal, the School Advisory Committee, and the BSB Commander may initiate a School Uniform

Policy. In doing so, a survey of parents of children attending Rainbow School will be conducted.

5. SURVEYS:

a. Surveys will be conducted IAW AR 600- 46 and UR 600-6. Surveys will be compiled and tabulated by the School Advisory Committee (SAC).

b. The survey was and shall be conducted at least 90 days prior to the date of a proposed uniform dress code or major changes go into effect. The survey shall be designed in such a way that gives every parent/guardian in the school community a reasonable and fair opportunity to voice their concerns.

6. SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY MODIFICATION :

a. After a school uniform dress code is approved it should not be changed for a period of two (2) years from the date of approval, unless the Principal, the SAC, or the Base Support Battalion (BSB) Commander recommend minor changes in the uniform dress code.

b. Once established, changes to this policy will be coordinated through the Principal, the SAC and the BSB Commander.

7. EXEMPTIONS If a parent or guardian desires to exempt his or her child from the school uniform policy, the parent/guardian must complete the following:

a. Parents/guardians must request in writing or in person an “Application for Exemption from the School Uniform Dress Code” (See Appendix). This application may be obtained from the School Principal, the SAC, or the Schools Officer for the Community.

b. The parents/guardians should complete the application in full, within a student’s first two weeks of school and submit it to the SAC. A copy will also be forwarded to School Principal and the BSB Schools’ Officer. Decisions on the request will be made jointly by the representatives of the School Administration, the SAC, and the BSB.

c. A student who obtains an exemption from this uniform dress code is granted an exemption for no more than the current school year and remains subject to the formal school dress parameters. Parents must resubmit their application for exemption prior to the start of the following school year if they wish to extend it.

8. ENFORCEMENT

a. The uniform dress code will be enforced by various methods. The Principal may use other methods to ensure compliance such as calling parents to bring in proper

clothes; extending privileges to those who comply with the uniform policy; conferring with the BSB Commander, Commanders/ISGs of the students' parents/guardians; or other appropriate methods and channels.

b. School officials will be expected to ensure students conform to the uniform requirements and follow Disciplinary Rules and Procedures as outlined in DoDEA Regulation 2051.1 dated August 16, 1996.

C. MARGARET DEATHERAGE
PRINCIPAL
RAINBOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STANLEY L. SIMS
LTC, MI
Commanding

APPENDIX

**SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE
EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

NAME: _____ **RANK:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **HOME PHONE:** _____
_____ **WORK PHONE:** _____
_____ **UNIT:** _____

<u>NAME (s) of CHILD(REN)</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

Please check one of the following blocks and attach documentation to support request:

Financial Hardship _____ Religious Beliefs _____
Medical Profile _____ Other (Please State) _____

STATE IN DETAIL YOUR REASON FOR EXEMPTION REQUEST BELOW