



2010 Classroom NSBA School Uniform Survey; Key Findings Released September 23, 2010

Summary:

Classroom School Uniforms emailed 5119 members of the National School Board Association (NSBA) requesting their input on school uniforms and dress code policies. The overall response rate was 2.2% (115 respondents).

As an adjunct member of the education community, we believe in the importance of providing up-to-date information on school uniform and dress code policies. Classroom's goal is to provide schools with accurate, 'real world' information as they consider the benefits of implementing a uniform program. Along with these key findings, we have attached the data from the actual survey for your review.

We thank all who participated for their time and feedback.

Key Findings:

- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of respondents have been NSBA members for more than a year, showing an understanding of the community and the issues facing their districts.
- Arizona, Illinois, South Dakota, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas constituted the state's well-represented in the survey. This is of particular interest as it shows the uniform programs are being discussed and implemented throughout the nation. In the past, uniform programs were mainly discussed in the South, Midwest and parts of the West Coast.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of the responding NSBA membership agreed that what a student wears to school is an important issue.
- School districts are still taking their time to discuss the issue: Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents have spent 1-2 years discussing the topic; another twenty-one (21%) have spent over three years considering a program; and ten percent (10%) of respondents implemented their programs within 6 months.
- More schools reported using school uniforms and standardized dress in their districts, as compared to the Classroom 2007 NSBA School Uniform Survey. Fifty-four percent (54%) of respondents stated they have a uniform, standardized dress or dress code program, up from forty-one (41%) in 2007. Another sixteen point four percent (16.4%) stated that their district is currently discussing school uniforms in their district. Seventy-six percent (76%) of NSBA respondents felt their programs were successful, while another nineteen (19%) was not sure.
- More of the policies are district-wide (58.5%), rather than campus choice (41.5%). Of those schools with district-wide policies, the uniform programs tend to be mandatory school uniform programs. (78% of those surveyed have a mandatory uniform program versus 22% reported using a voluntary program.)
- Of the school districts with school uniforms program, thirty-eight percent (38%) have used uniforms for 2-5 years with sixty percent (60%) using uniforms for over five years.
- Respondents with school uniforms and standardized dress held the following opinions:
 - Eighty-six percent (86%) of those surveyed felt the standardized dress reduced peer pressure, seventy-six percent (76%) felt it increased student focus, seventy-four (74%) felt it reduced disciplinary issues and sixty percent (60%) felt it prevented

- gang affiliation . Fifty-six percent (56%) of those respondents also felt uniforms enhanced a school's image.
- Uniforms are more cost effective compared to “general” apparel, but schools are still having fundraisers, donations and uniform closets for those in need. Fifty-four percent (54%) of respondents felt school uniforms save parents money, where another thirty-nine percent (39%) was not sure.
 - When asked if uniforms or standardized dress codes helped improve attendance, nine percent (9%) did see an improvement while twenty-five percent (25%) of respondents saw no change and the remaining sixty-six percent (66%) were unsure.
 - When asked if school uniforms helped create a positive effect in the classroom and image for the school district, seventy-four percent (74%) of NSBA members thought they helped in the classroom, while sixty-seven percent (67%) felt uniforms helped a district's image. Twenty-four percent (24%) of NSBA respondents were not sure if uniforms helped in the classroom and fifteen percent (15%) were not sure if they helped in the district.
 - Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents saw a decline in discipline referrals while another sixteen percent (16%) saw no change. Fifty-two percent (52%) were not sure of the change.
 - Twenty-five percent (25%) of NSBA members have seen a decline in gang activity or affiliation with a uniform program. Thirty-three percent (33%) was not if this has improved.
 - NSBA members saw an increase in their AYP scores. Seven and a half percent (7.5%) saw an increase of 1-10 points in their AYP scores, nine percent (9%) saw an increase in 11-25 points and 2% saw an increase of 50 or more points. Twenty – five percent (25%) of the respondents saw no change in their scores.
 - Only seventeen percent (17%) of NSBA members have seen improved parent participation since implementing the school uniform or dress code policy.
 - When responding NSBA members with a uniform or dress code program were asked what issues their school district was currently dealing with: AYP Target Achievement (71%), parent involvement (62%), discipline (69%), bullying (69%) and attendance (54%) were cited as the top five issues. For those schools not in uniforms, Parent involvement (64%), bullying (55%), inappropriate clothing (49%), attendance and discipline (both 45%) were cited as the top five issues.
 - When evaluating what clothing features school districts consider important when evaluating school uniform or standardized dress code policies, price (66%), availability in local stores (62%), and availability of sizes (56%) were cited as the most important factors.
- Respondents without school uniform programs held the following opinions:
 - NSBA members without school uniforms are using the following methods to improve discipline, attendance and parent involvement and to reduce bullying and the wearing of inappropriate clothing: staff development (64%), seminars and workshops (42%), mentoring (38%) and student incentives (22%) to improve their goals. They cite the following achievements:
 - Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents saw an improvement in attendance with another 33% citing no improvement.
 - Fifty-one percent (51%) of respondents saw these methods bringing a positive effect in the classroom.
 - Fifty-one percent (51%) stated these programs have helped improve the school's image
 - Thirty-seven percent (37%) saw a decline in discipline referrals
 - Nine percent (9%) of NSBA members see a decline in gang activity with 7% seeing nothing and 28% not sure.

- Forty-nine percent (49%) of respondents saw a positive change in AYP scores.
- In regard to improved parent participation, forty-two percent (42%) of the membership see a difference.
- In regard to handling dress code infringements, sixty-four percent (64%) of the districts responded they call the parents, fifty-two percent (52%) send the children home and another thirty-three percent (33%) give detention. Five percent (5%) of the schools do nothing in regard to dress code infringements.

About this Survey:

This is the third time, Classroom School Uniforms surveyed NSBA members in the past five years. If you would like additional information about this survey or Classroom School Uniforms, please feel free to contact suhotline@classroomuniforms.com