

HB 7043

2015

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to standard student attire; providing  
3 a short title; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.; authorizing  
4 district school boards to adopt a standard student  
5 attire policy; establishing criteria for and the  
6 purpose of the policy; providing immunity from civil  
7 liability for district school boards that implement a  
8 standard student attire policy under certain  
9 conditions; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; creating a safe  
10 schools allocation to provide funding to school  
11 districts for certain safe schools activities;  
12 providing for the withholding of a district's safe  
13 schools funding for failure to comply with certain  
14 reporting requirements with respect to school safety  
15 and student discipline; authorizing additional funding  
16 for school districts that implement a standard student  
17 attire policy; providing an appropriation; providing  
18 an effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Students Attired  
23 for Education (SAFE) Act."

24 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
25 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school

27 | board.—The district school board may exercise the following  
28 | supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or  
29 | State Board of Education rule.

30 | (1) STUDENT MANAGEMENT.—The district school board may  
31 | adopt programs and policies to ensure the safety and welfare of  
32 | individuals, the student body, and school personnel, which  
33 | programs and policies may:

34 | (b) Require that the attire ~~uniforms~~ to be worn by the  
35 | student body conform to a standard student attire policy that  
36 | prohibits certain types or styles of clothing and requires solid  
37 | colored clothing and fabrics for pants, skirts, shorts, or  
38 | similar clothing and short or long sleeved shirts with collars.  
39 | The policy may authorize a small logo but may not authorize a  
40 | motto or slogan. The purpose of a standard student attire policy  
41 | is to provide a safe environment that fosters learning and  
42 | improves school safety and discipline by:

43 | 1. Encouraging students to express their individuality  
44 | through personality and academic achievements, rather than  
45 | outward appearance.

46 | 2. Enabling students to focus on academics, rather than  
47 | fashion, because they are able to project a neat, serious, and  
48 | studious image.

49 | 3. Minimizing disciplinary problems because students are  
50 | not distracted by clothing.

51 | 4. Reducing the time needed to correct dress code  
52 | violations through a readily available inventory of compliant

53 attire.

54 5. Minimizing visible differences and eliminating social  
55 pressures to wear brand name clothing or "gang colors," thereby  
56 easing financial pressures on parents and enhancing school  
57 safety.

58 6. Creating a sense of school pride and belonging.

59

60 A district school board may implement a standard student attire  
61 policy as part of an overall program to foster and promote  
62 desirable school operating conditions and a safe and supportive  
63 educational environment. A standard student attire policy must  
64 allow a parent to opt his or her student out of the policy for  
65 religious purposes or by reason of a disability. A district  
66 school board that implements a districtwide standard student  
67 attire policy for all students in at least kindergarten through  
68 eighth grade is immune from civil liability resulting from  
69 adoption of the policy in accordance with this paragraph, ~~or~~  
70 ~~impose other dress-related requirements, if the district school~~  
71 ~~board finds that those requirements are necessary for the safety~~  
72 ~~or welfare of the student body or school personnel. However,~~  
73 Students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun-protective wear  
74 while outdoors during school hours, such as when students are at  
75 recess.

76 Section 3. Subsection (16) is added to section 1011.62,  
77 Florida Statutes, to read:

78 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual

79 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
80 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
81 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
82 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
83 follows:

84 (16) SAFE SCHOOLS ALLOCATION.—A safe schools allocation is  
85 created to provide funding for allowable safe schools  
86 activities. Each school district shall receive a minimum safe  
87 schools allocation in an amount provided in the General  
88 Appropriations Act. Of the remaining funds provided in the  
89 General Appropriations Act for safe schools activities, two-  
90 thirds shall be allocated among the school districts based on  
91 each district's proportionate share of Total Index Crime for  
92 Florida by county reported by the Department of Law Enforcement  
93 in its most recent Uniform Crime Reports offense data and one-  
94 third shall be allocated based on each district's proportionate  
95 share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent  
96 student enrollment.

97 (a) Allowable safe schools activities shall be provided in  
98 the General Appropriations Act. The department shall monitor  
99 compliance with the reporting procedures of ss. 1006.09 and  
100 1006.147. If a district does not comply with the reporting  
101 procedures, the district's funds from the safe schools  
102 allocation shall be withheld and reallocated to other school  
103 districts. Each school district shall report to the Department  
104 of Education the amount of funds expended for each of the

HB 7043

2015

105 allowable safe schools activities.

106 (b) Each school district that implements a districtwide  
107 standard student attire policy in accordance with s.  
108 1001.43(1)(b) shall receive an additional amount allocated as  
109 awards of \$10 per student in kindergarten through grade 8 to  
110 qualified school districts. Before the release of funds, the  
111 district school superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner  
112 of Education, no later than September 1 of each year, that the  
113 district school board has implemented a standard student attire  
114 policy in accordance with s. 1001.43(1)(b). If funds  
115 specifically appropriated are insufficient to provide \$10 per  
116 student, the available funds shall be prorated to qualified  
117 school districts on a per-student basis. As of June 30 of each  
118 year, any funds provided pursuant to this paragraph that have  
119 not been disbursed to qualified school districts shall revert to  
120 the fund from which they were appropriated pursuant to s.  
121 216.301.

122 Section 4. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$10  
123 million in recurring general revenue funds is appropriated to  
124 the Florida Education Finance Program Safe Schools Allocation  
125 for the purpose of implementing s. 1011.62(16)(b), Florida  
126 Statutes, as created by this act.

127 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.