

**SENATE, No. 1780**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/5/2024)**

S1780 MCKNIGHT, TURNER

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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35 2. (New section) A student shall not be denied admittance to  
36 school due to tardiness.

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38 3. (New section) A student shall not be denied admittance to  
39 school due to a violation of a school uniform policy or dress code  
40 policy, except as may be provided pursuant to a dress code policy  
41 adopted pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1996, c.93 (C.18A:11-9).

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43 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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.**

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STATEMENT

This bill provides that a student cannot be denied admittance to school due to tardiness. The bill also provides that a student cannot be denied admittance to school due to a violation of a school uniform policy or dress code policy, except in the case of a violation of section 2 of P.L.1996, c.93 (C. 18A:11-9). That section of law allows a board of education to adopt a dress code policy that prohibits students from wearing clothing, apparel, or accessories indicating membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities.