

# Akron Beacon Journal

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LOCAL

## Akron Board of Education suspends school uniform requirement for grades K-8 for 2024-25



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School uniforms will once again, for the fourth year, be suspended for Akron Public Schools students in grades K-8 for the 2024-2025 school year.

The board voted 6-0 Monday night to continue to continue to suspend its uniform requirement, with board member Job Esau Perry absent.

For the last three school years, the district has foregone its usual uniform policy for grades K-8, opting to give parents and students leeway during the pandemic to not have to purchase and use school uniforms.

During Monday night's meeting, board members said they hope to update the policy next year, so it won't have to be reconsidered every year, leaving students and families questioning what to do for the upcoming school year.

"Hopefully by winter we will have something to communicate with families next school year...instead of telling families in June what may or may not happen in August," board member Rene Molenaar said.

Results from a recent survey of Akron Public Schools' families and faculty showed only about 37% of respondents support the return of uniforms for students.

Surveys were sent out to adult leaders throughout the district, families and student ambassadors.

"Obviously, this is an important topic, but we just wanted to get relevant feedback from our community as we just started to put the book, the handbook, together, knowing we would

need to take this to legal policy in the right format," Director of Business Affairs Deb Foulk said at a previous committee meeting.