

## Should Schools Require Uniforms?

Kids at one public school in Florida are spending less time deciding what to wear these days. Starting this year, students at Groveland Elementary School are required to wear uniforms. They have to wear tan, navy blue, or black pants (or shorts) and a solid-color polo shirt.

Supporters of this idea say that when everyone dresses alike, students can focus more on their work and less on fashion. They also argue that wearing a uniform can boost kids' school spirit.

"It gives them a sense of belonging and a sense of ownership in their school," says Joseph Mabry. He's the assistant principal of Groveland Elementary.

However, some people want to leave uniforms on the rack. For example, the Brunswick County School District in North Carolina voted to get rid of them for this school year. Some parents said the uniforms were too expensive. Others argued that kids should be allowed to express themselves.

Here's what two of our readers think.



**YES!** Many kids get bullied because of their clothes. When kids all wear the same thing, other students can't make fun of what they wear or pressure them to wear stylish clothes.

Wearing uniforms also makes kids prouder of their school, so they will want to work hard to do well in class.

In addition, if some students wear flashy clothes to school, they may distract classmates from their work.

*Elena Ventura, Florida*



**NO!** Students should be allowed to choose clothing in styles that match their personalities. If they're forced to wear uniforms, they can't express themselves.

Having to wear a uniform would be boring. Who wants to wear the same thing almost every day?

Also, uniforms might be too expensive for some families. Kids would need two sets of clothes: one to wear to school and one to wear at home.

*Daniel Kim, Virginia*



**What's Your Opinion?** GO ONLINE to cast your vote and download an opinion-writing skills sheet: [www.scholastic.com/sn4](http://www.scholastic.com/sn4)

### Sticky Situation



Henry really wants to have his birthday party at an amusement park. But his best friend, Lily, uses a wheelchair and wouldn't be able to go on many of the rides. Henry doesn't want Lily to feel left out.

**What should Henry do?**

Tell us what you think at [www.scholastic.com/sn4](http://www.scholastic.com/sn4).