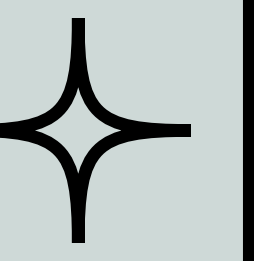


# The Uniform Debate



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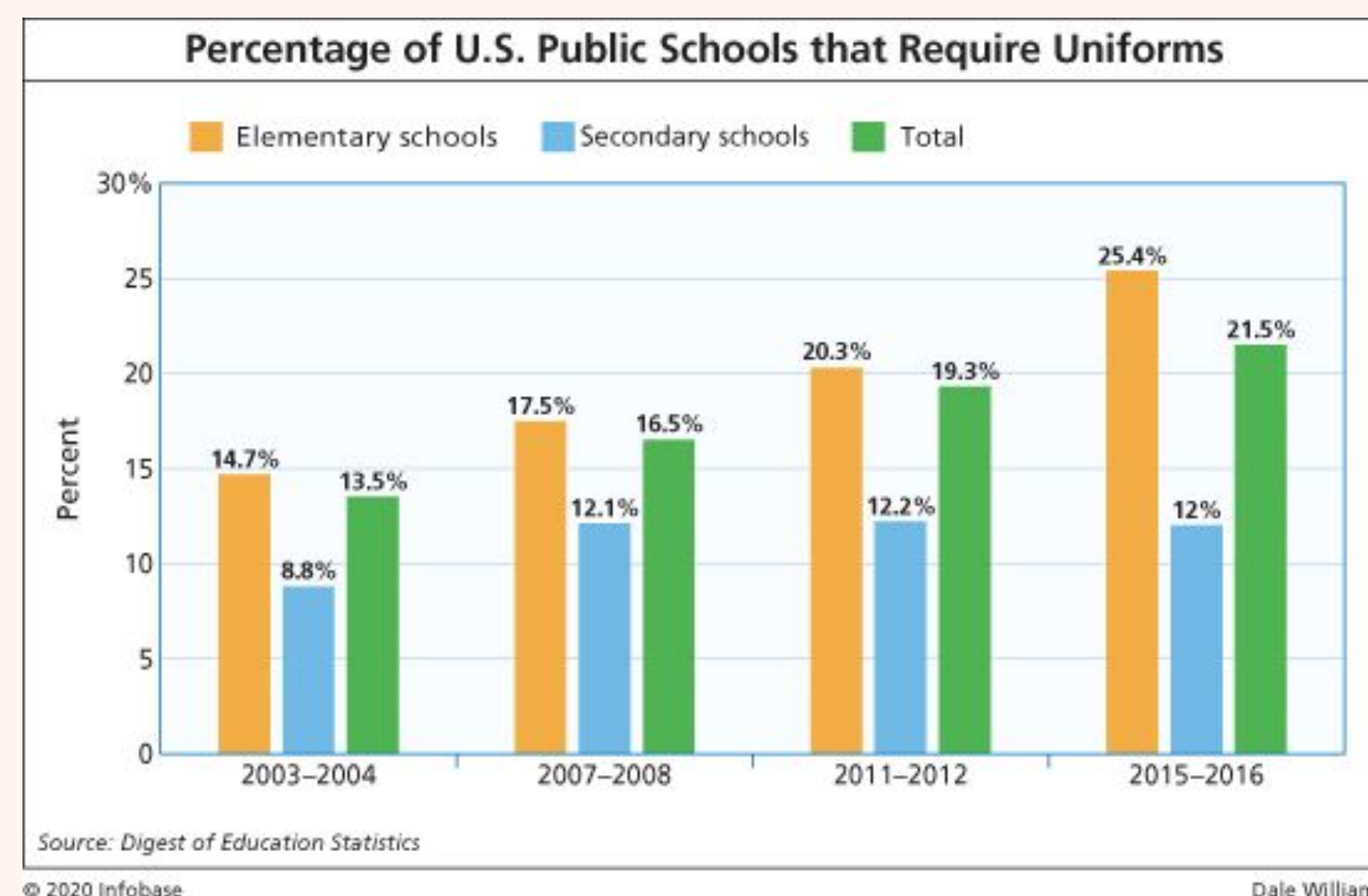
## Introduction

### Background

Mandatory uniforms were traditionally more common in private institutions, but have since been adopted by many public schools throughout the U.S.

### Statistics

- Results from a 2020 report found that the percentage of public schools that required uniform increased from 12% during the 1999-2000 school year to 20% during the 2017-2018 school year.
- As reported during the 2017-2018 school year, more urban public schools required uniform compared to public schools in rural areas



Administrators should assess both sides of this debate before coming to an informed conclusion about the ended for uniform within their institution.

## Discussion



### Benefits of Uniform in Schools

- Uniforms allow students to focus more so on their education, not what they may be wearing
- Uniforms create unity and enhance school spirit and school pride
- Uniform policies save students from missing class time
  - Often times, students are taken out of class and told to change if they are not following the dress code. The implementation of uniforms prevents this as standards of dress are stricter.
- Having a school uniform prevents the displaying of gang related colors or insignia
- Uniforms may allow students to be more punctual as they do not have to worry over choosing an outfit for school

### Detriments of Uniform in Schools

- The enforcing of uniforms can restricts student's self-expression
- Uniforms can promote conformity and limit individuality
- Uniforms do not stop bullying or decrease the likelihood of violent attacks/ altercations between students
- The increase in push for uniforms may only stem from a commercial interest, not an educational one
- Required uniforms undermine the promise of the free education that most public schools promise

### The Parent Disagreement

Many parents cannot agree on whether mandatory school uniforms are inherently cost effective. While parents will not ended to buy a large amounts of clothes for their child that adhere to a specific dress code, they do have to pay for a specific uniform for their child. These uniforms are also usually only found in school shops or online.

## Conclusion

Although there are many positive aspects to school-issued uniform, it is not a feasible option for public schools. This new rule implements an added cost that many parents may not be able to afford. It misrepresents public schools and their idea of "free education" by introducing an unnecessary expense. This fee is exacerbated by the fact that most specific school uniforms are only available either online or in the school's uniform shop. Thus, there are limited ways to avoid the high cost of clothing.

### Further Discussion

Personally, I believe that in addition to the added cost, uniforms stifle self-expression and individuality. Students are in school for the majority of their development, thus they should have the freedom to explore how they wish to express themselves without having to adhere to the constraints of school issued uniform standards.

### Resources

- Bao, Lei. "Cecilia Bao (CC)." *Cecilia Bao* CC, 25 Mar. 2021. <https://sites.psu.edu/cecilia080205/2021/03/25/should-students-wear-school-uniforms/>.
- Chen, Grace. "Uniforms: The Pros and Cons." *Public School Review*, Public School Review, 29 Oct. 2022. <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/blog/uniforms-the-pros-and-cons>.
- "The NCES Fast Facts Tool Provides Quick Answers to Many Education Questions (National Center for Education Statistics)." *National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Home Page, a Part of the U.S. Department of Education*, 2000. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=50>.
- "Pro and Con: School Uniforms." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/story/pro-and-con-school-uniforms>.