

Vinewood's Uniform Policy Review

➤ November 13, 2024:

Vinewood's Leadership Committee met to review Vinewood's uniform policy in place.

- The committee discussed effectiveness and challenges in enforcing the policy.
- We reviewed Lodi Unified School District Board of Education Policy and Rule 5132 which addresses school uniform policy. Board Rule 5132 (J) states, "The evaluation of the School Uniform Policy shall be conducted every three (3) years. The evaluation shall be conducted among school families and site staff. Each school shall complete its respective evaluation by February 15 and submit the results (Exhibit 5132J) to the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education or the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education."

➤ January 5th, 2025:

A communication went out to Vinewood families in the Smore newsletter. It stated, "We are asking you to share your thoughts about requiring school uniforms at Vinewood Elementary. You will have the opportunity to share as many thoughts online as you like, and these will all remain anonymous. You will then be able to view other comments and vote on how much you agree or disagree. This thought exchange will be available from January 5th to January 10th. A ballot will be sent out later this month where you can vote on whether you support continuing the uniform policy."

➤ January 12, 2025:

A follow up communication went out to Vinewood families on the outcome of the Thought Exchange survey. Here are some key points regarding the outcome of the survey.

- We had 114 participants with a total of 2,277 star ratings given to other participants' comments over the 6-day period (1/5/25-1/10/25).
- Responses to Vinewood Elementary School's student uniform policy are mixed. Some parents appreciate the policy for promoting equality,

reducing bullying, simplifying morning routines, and fostering a sense of belonging and discipline. They believe uniforms create a safer environment and minimize distractions. However, others criticize the policy for being inconsistently enforced, causing discomfort, and imposing financial burdens. Some parents argue that uniforms limit self-expression and are unnecessary, advocating for a dress code instead. Overall, while many support the policy for its benefits, there is significant concern about its enforcement and impact on students' comfort and individuality.

➤ January 15, 2025:

The uniform policy and the survey outcome were discussed at the Parent Club meeting. Vinewood's principal shared the California Ed. Code 35183 (f) when asked about the level of enforcement. It states, "If a governing board chooses to adopt a policy pursuant to this section, the policy shall include a provision that no pupil shall be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against nor denied attendance to school if the pupil's parents chose not to have the pupil comply with the school uniform policy. The governing board shall continue to have responsibility for the appropriate education of those pupils."

➤ February 3, 2025:

- A paper ballot (Exhibit 5132 – K) to vote on whether to continue the current uniform policy was sent home. Each family was allowed one vote.
- Also, all staff members at Vinewood were given a ballot (Exhibit 5132 – L) to vote.

➤ February 16, 2025:

The outcome of the voting was shared in the Smore newsletter to the families.

- 81.8% of families casted their votes. According to Lodi Unified School District Board of Education Policy and Rule (5132), at least 50% of families needed to vote.

- 43.9% of families and 31.3% of Vinewood staff voted in support of uniforms. Two-thirds of families needed to vote in favor of continuing the uniform policy. However, the results fell short.

For more details, please see the report below (Exhibit 5132 – D).

LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Exhibit 5132 - D

SCHOOL UNIFORM BALLOT REPORT

School Name: Vinewood Elementary School

Principal: Ben Koh

Date: February 10, 2025

No. School Families	403		100	%
No. of Surveys Returned	330		81.8	%
No. For Uniforms	145		43.9	%
No. Against Uniforms	185		56.1	%
*Total	<u>145+185+73=403</u>		<u>100</u>	%
	(*For + Against + Not Returned)			

No. of Staff	57		100	%
No. of Surveys Returned	32		56.1	%
No. for Uniforms	10		31.3	%
No. Against Uniforms	22		68.7	%
*Total	<u>10+22+25=57</u>		<u>100</u>	%
	(*For + Against + Not Returned)			

TWO-THIRDS OF THE BALLOTS CAST BY MORE THAN 50%
OF OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES HAVE VOTED IN FAVOR
OF IMPLEMENTING A STUDENT UNIFORM POLICY

YES NO
