

Parents oppose school uniforms

by UPI

INDIANAPOLIS -- The fight over dress codes and uniforms for U.S. public school children is moving from local school board meetings to the courthouse. An Indiana couple, Laura and Scott Bell of Anderson, has filed suit in federal court against a uniform plan that begins when students return to classes later this month, USA Today reported Monday. The Bells' suit charges the plan violates their children's constitutional right of free expression and the guarantee of a free public education. As the parents of five children, the Bells say it will cost them more than \$600 to purchase the pants and shirts required by the dress code. The lawyer for the Anderson school district says the board expects uniforms to improve academic performance by eliminating distracting clothing and creating a orderly atmosphere. Lawsuits similar to the Bells are currently pending in Bayonne, N.J., and Napa County, Calif.

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