

# Uniformes en la Escuela

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## Objectives

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

- identify the various parts of a Nicaraguan school uniform.
  - explain how the colors of the uniform reflect national pride.
  - evaluate the impact of uniform regulations on the average Nicaraguan family.
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## Materials

- Student Handout: **Uniformes**
  - Student Handout: **Vocabulario**
  - Video clip of child describing her uniform
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## Activities

1. Distribute the student handout entitled **Uniformes**.
    - a. Direct students examine the photograph and to read the first paragraph on the handout.
    - b. Ask students to explain why the uniforms are blue and white. How does this reflect national pride?
    - c. Ask students to hypothesize why Nicaraguan students are required to wear uniforms.
  2. Direct students to read the remaining paragraphs in the handout.
    - a. Ask students to explain why attending school may be an economic hardship for many Nicaraguan families.
    - b. Given the financial state of the majority of the population, how does this regulation affect education?
  3. Distribute the student handout entitled **Vocabulario** and review with the class the spelling and pronunciation of each of the Spanish vocabulary terms.
  4. Play the video clip of a child describing her uniform. (Depending on the level of the class, you may need to replay the clip several times, and Spanish language dictionaries may be needed.)
  5. Concluding activity (optional)
    - a. Using dark blue and white construction paper, crayons, or colored pencils, direct students create paper-clothing cutout of a Nicaraguan school uniform.
    - b. Instruct students to correctly label each part of the uniform with the correct Spanish vocabulary term.
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# Uniformes

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During the Spanish occupation and colonization of Nicaragua the Spaniards created the first schools. It is traditional to wear uniforms and this tradition has been carried into today's society. Even within the public schools the children are required to wear uniforms. The boy's uniform consists of a white button shirt (camisa) and blue pants (pantalones), with shoes that are blue or black. The girl's uniform consists of a white shirt or blouse (blusa), and a blue or blue plaid skirt (falda). The county's colors are blue and white, and this can be seen on their flag. The colors of the uniform echo the country's colors.

Because uniforms are required for all children attending school. The very poor children are unable to attend school because they cannot afford to buy uniforms. Even though clothing is relatively cheap in Nicaragua, many families have many children. They often cannot afford to send all of them to school. The students may also have to buy paper and other supplies that are also cost prohibitive. The total cost comes to approximately \$50 per year (or 700 cordobas).

Because of these burdens many children do not attend school. An estimated 1/2 of the population does not attend elementary school. This statistic only gets worse as the age of the child gets older. The children may also be needed at home to work or help take care of the other children.

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## Vocabulario

| English      | Spanish          |
|--------------|------------------|
| Coat         | el abrigo        |
| Sweater      | el suéter        |
| Blouse       | la blusa         |
| Skirt        | la falda         |
| Dress        | el vestido       |
| Shirt        | la camisa        |
| Pants        | los pantalones   |
| Jacket       | la chaqueta      |
| Boots        | las botas        |
| Shoes        | las zapatos      |
| Socks        | las calcetines   |
| Stockings    | las medias       |
| T-Shirt      | la camiseta      |
| Hat          | el sombrero      |
| Raincoat     | el impermeable   |
| Robe         | la bata          |
| Pajamas      | el pijama        |
| Bathing suit | el traje de baño |