

# Fashion FORECAST

## Getting Smart About School Clothes

(NAPSA)—If you've been wondering how to help your children's school clothes make the grade, you may want to consider athletic wear. Athletic looks with exciting new twists have become top fashion statements for girls and boys.

It appears that today's active youth are seeking clothing that's comfortable on and off the playing field.

"School fashions complement the active lifestyles of today's youth," explains Laura McDowell of T.J. Maxx. "The clothing is all about comfort—soft velours and knits, roomy jerseys, warm fleece, worn denim, wearable, practical fashion for guys and gals. The look is totally casual and very wearable." She offers the following list for school fashion favorites:

### Top Five Athletic Looks For School:

- **Hoodies**—Hoods are the number one trend in school fashion for boys and girls. Fleece pull-over sweatshirts are fondly referred to as hoodies. Other hooded options include sweatshirts, zip-front jackets and more.

- **Athletic separates**—Youths seek all types of athletic wear, from baseball-look tops paired with denim skirts for her, to athletic embleming (numbers or team logos) for him.

- **Denim**—Denim, as always, is a wardrobe staple. Girls are choosing denim jackets, shirts and skirts (in a variety of lengths). Patchwork skirts are particularly stylish. Jeans are equally important for boys and girls, with this year's styles sporting leaner sil-



**On the subject of fashion, today's school-aged children say comfort is key.**

houettes, a variety of washes and fewer pockets than last year's.

- **Velour/Fleece**—Always known for comfort and durability, velour jog suits, zip-up jackets and athletic pants have become must-haves. Fleece jog sets are also a strong influence—especially with hoods.

- **Long-sleeve fashion knits and tees**—They're great for school in terms of wearability and durability. Guys like athletic and "attitude" screening. Color choices follow professional teams' combinations. Girls go for glitter, glamour and sweet motifs. Mesh jerseys, rugby patterns and varsity sweaters are everywhere, often paired with nylon break-away cargo-style pants. All-American red, white and blue is a top look.

For more information, you can call 1-800-2-TJ-MAXX or visit [www.tjmaxx.com](http://www.tjmaxx.com).