



STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

POLICY:	504
ADOPTED:	05/06/02
REVISED:	08/23/21

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards.

II. General Statement of Policy

It is the policy of this school district to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

Staff will always strive to maintain sensitivity and respect in administering this policy. Dress code violations will be discussed in a manner that minimizes student embarrassment and disruption from class.

III. Student Dress and Appearance Parameters

- A. The parameters concerning students' dress and appearance are intended to:
 - 1. Maintain a safe learning environment in classes and at activities where protective or supportive clothing, or clothing appropriate for the weather, class, or activity is needed.
 - 3. Ensure all students are treated equitably and with respect regardless of race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.
 - 4. Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that are lewd, vulgar, obscene, offensive, defamatory, profane, advocate violence or harassment against others, or are likely to cause substantial disruption or material interference with school activities including, but not limited to, profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- B. It is not the intention of this policy to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane or do not advocate violence or harassment against others.

IV. Dress Code Requirements

A. Appropriate Dress:

1. A shirt with fabric in the front, back and on the sides under the arm.
2. Pants, jeans, or equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress, or shorts).
3. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons unless approved under special circumstances by the building principal.

B. Inappropriate Dress:

1. Clothing that does not cover the buttocks, midriff, chest or undergarments.
2. Undergarments that are worn as outer garments.
3. Clothing, accessories or body art depicting words or visuals which are vulgar, obscene, disruptive, violent, abusive or discriminatory.
4. Clothing or accessories depicting images or language depicting or promoting: any illegal item or activity, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, hate speech, promotion of threat/hate groups including gangs or supremacist groups, profanity, or pornography. This includes: emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or accessories communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory, symbolizes gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances or provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in district policy.
5. Dress or grooming which is disruptive to the classroom or school atmosphere.
6. Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
7. Any item that obscures the face including, but not limited to facemasks, disguises, face paint, clothing or any item that would prevent the student from being immediately identifiable. Exceptions may be authorized by school administrators.
8. Wearing clothing or footwear that may damage school property.

V. Procedures

- A. These dress code requirements will apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as to any school-related events and activities such as

educational travel, graduation ceremonies, dances and prom. A site principal or designee may make exceptions to this policy if necessary and/or appropriate under the circumstances (e.g. spirit days, etc.).

- B. When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. Parents or guardians will be notified.
- C. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/guardians.
- D. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval.

Legal References: U. S. Const., amend I.
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)
Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist., 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafen, 217 Fed. Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 1997)
B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Distr., 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)
Madrid v. Anthony, 510 F.Supp. 2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)
Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist., 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)
Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ., 93 F.Supp. 2d 649 (E.D.N.C. 1999)
McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3, 804 F. Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
Olesen v. Board of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228, 676 F. Supp. 822, 44 Educ. L. Rep. 205 (N.D. Ill. 1987)
B.H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist., 725 F.3d 293 (3rd Cir. 2013)
Hardwick v. Heyward, 711 F.3d 426 (4th Cir. 2013)

Cross References: Policy 413 - Harassment and Violence
Policy 506 - Student Discipline
Policy 525 - Violence Prevention
Student Behavior Expectations Handbook