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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 199
Inver Grove Heights Community Schools
2990 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. Purpose

The policy of the school district is to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

II. General Statement of Policy

- A. It is the policy and purpose of this school district to provide students with the basic skills needed in order to be able to interact within a community upon graduation. For a large majority of the student population, part of that interaction will include employment. As places of employment have varying codes relating to appearance and grooming, it is the belief of this school district that this policy will support the educational process of the district. Therefore, students have the responsibility to be dressed and groomed appropriately during the instructional day for school activities. Further, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools views the Student Dress and Appearance Policy as a serious issue and expects parents to promote the observance of this policy.
- B. Appropriate clothing and grooming includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Clothing appropriate for the weather.
 - 2. Clothing and/or grooming that does not create a health or safety hazard.
 - 3. Clothing and/or grooming appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).
- C. The following guidelines are established for students K-12:

1. Shorts, skorts, skirts and dresses must be no shorter than the tip of the student's pinkie finger when his/her extended arm is by his/her side (while in a normal standing position).
 2. Sleeveless shirts (with a minimum of a ½ inch strap) blouses and dresses (with a minimum of a ½ inch strap) must come up to two inches below the armpit. All shirts and blouses must go past the waistband and be able to overlap the top of pants/skirts, covering the back, with no cutouts or see-through material or elements with no midriff visible while in standing position. Shirts or blouses with excessive low-cut fronts are inappropriate.
 3. All undergarments are to be covered and not exposed due to rips, tears or other modifications of the clothing.
 4. Clothing or accessories bearing a message (in whatever language) that is lewd, vulgar or obscene including Big Johnson T-shirts, Co-ed Naked T-shirts and Playboy Bunny insignia clothing are not to be worn at any school sponsored activity.
 5. Apparel or accessories promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors are not to be worn at any school sponsored activity regardless of the age of the student.
 6. Objectionable apparel, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences 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 413 are deemed unacceptable at any school sponsored activity.
 7. Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property is not to be worn.
- D. Hats, caps, rags, sweatbands, scarves or bandannas are not to be worn in the building during student instructional hours and need to be appropriately stored while at school (i.e., placed in lockers) except with the approval of the building principal (i.e., student undergoing chemotherapy; medical situations, sincerely held religious or cultural belief). (Note: This does not refer to Physical Education classes, when held outside, where the use of hats or sweatbands would be appropriate.)
- E. Outer wear (i.e., letter jackets, coats, parkas) will not be worn in the buildings during student instructional hours, except when a student is in the process of entering or exiting a building (i.e., recess, field trip preparation, etc.).
- F. Large, long and/or heavy chains and/or studded/spiked accessories are prohibited, as these can constitute a safety hazard. These items will be confiscated until the end of the school day.

- G. 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.
- H. "Gang," as defined in this policy, means any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. "Pattern of gang activity" means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.

III. Procedures

- A. The district respects and understands that various district-sponsored extra curricular activities present contradictory participation and uniform requirements to those outlined in this policy, and allows for modifications to this policy during involvement in such to be determined by the contracted adult responsible.
- 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. On the second and all subsequent violations, parents/guardians will be notified. Repeated violations of this policy will be handled by building administration.
- C. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/guardians (i.e., Winter Formal, Prom).
- 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.
- E. Students and parents/guardians will be notified of this policy annually before the start of the school year.
- F. This policy was developed with input from staff, students, parents, and the community. Any future review of this policy may, at the discretion of the school board, include additional input from these same groups.

- 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)
- Cross References:** Policy 413 - Harassment and Violence
Policy 506 - Student Discipline
Policy 525 - Violence Prevention