

Student Dress

One of the fundamental purposes of school is to provide the foundation for the creation and development of a proper attitude toward education. In order to further this purpose, it is essential to create and maintain an effective teaching and learning environment. Student attire impacts the teaching and learning environment. It can either promote a more effective educational environment, or it can disrupt the educational climate and process. Student attire that is acceptable for some social settings may not be acceptable for the educational environment of school.

Students are reminded that their appearance, clothing, and grooming, significantly affect the way others respond to them. Matters of dress remain primarily the responsibility of students, in consultation with their parents or legal guardians. Nevertheless, since it is the duty of the Board of Trustees to provide an educational atmosphere conducive to learning; minimizing disruptions or distractions; and to protect the health, safety, and morals of students, all students will adhere to the following certain minimum standards of dress when the student is on any school premises or at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location.

All students are expected to wear clothing which is modest, clean, and in good condition. Clothing must be appropriate so as to not distract from the educational process. In general, students are not to wear or carry items of apparel (clothing, accessories, cosmetics, tattoos, jewelry—including body piercings) which depict or allude to, by picture, symbol, or word, drugs, including alcohol and tobacco; controlled substances; drug paraphernalia; gangs; violence; sexually explicit, lewd, indecent, or offensive material; or illegal acts. The wearing, use, or display of any gang clothing or attire jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, codes, or other things which evidence membership or affiliation in any gang (based upon the principal's or his or her designee's reasonable belief that gangs may be present in a school) is prohibited on any school premises or at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location.

Head coverings are inappropriate in the school building during regular school hours, unless the principal or designee specifically makes an exception to the policy.

Unless the principal or designee indicates otherwise, students will wear footwear at all times.

The Board of Trustees urges parents and students to exercise sound judgment, based upon the standard of appropriateness for the school setting. For example, clothing exposing bare midriffs will not be allowed. Shorts and skirts must be at least as long and the tips of the student's fingers when their arms are held straight at their sides. Shorts must be hemmed and no cutoffs, hot pants, or spandex type shorts are allowed. The Superintendent or his or her designee is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations consistent with the provisions of this policy.

Grooming

Pupils shall come to school clean and well groomed. Failure to do so may result in the student being sent home. If the condition persists, referrals may be made to the proper authorities. Referrals will also be made if a child appears to be neglected or abused.

Students' hair should be clean, neat, and combed. Hair should be kept out of the eyes for safety reasons. Stricter regulations may apply for students in shop classes and for those participating in extracurricular activities.

Interpretation and Implementation of Policy

The building principal/designee shall use reasonable discretion in interpreting and implementing the provisions of this policy. If a conflict arises in the interpretation of this policy, the interpretation of the building principal or designee shall be final. Principals, administrators, and teachers shall use reasonable discretion in enforcing this policy.

Enforcement

Teachers and administrators may deny class entrance to students dressed or otherwise adorned inappropriately until arrangements may be made for their proper attire. All time missed from classes for failure to adhere to this policy will be deemed unexcused absences. Parents or guardians will be notified each time a student is asked to leave school because of inappropriate attire. Students who are insubordinate or refuse to change the improper attire, or who repeat dress code violations shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion, depending on all the facts and circumstances, for violating the standards of student conduct.

Temporary Exceptions

In order to allow appropriate attire for a particular educational or school activity, the building principal or his or her designee has the authority to grant temporary exceptions to specific provisions of this policy and related regulations. An example of such an exception might be where a specially scheduled school event required a group of students to dress unusually on a particular day.

Accommodations

The District will seek to accommodate cultural, religious, and ethnic differences in dress and grooming, provided such dress or grooming does not materially or substantially disrupt the educational process of the school or create a health or safety hazard for students, staff or others. No student shall be required to modify their natural head or facial hair, such as by shaving or straightening through the application of heat or chemicals.

Legal Reference: I.C. 33-506
I.C. 33-512(6)

Organization and Government of Board of Trustees
Governance of Schools

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 15, 2016

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