

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

### Introduction

As a school district, we recognize that how students choose to dress is often a choice based on personal and cultural expression, as well as comfort and economic means. The spirit of the Student Dress Code policy is to respect these individual rights and circumstances and identify only those areas that impact academic learning and are factors in the overall physical and psychological health and safety of the student body and the adults who serve them. While the policy strives to provide as much clarity as possible, educator discretion is reserved in unique circumstances, especially in cases where physical and/or psychological safety is in question.

With this in mind...

#### **Do wear clothing appropriate for school:**

- Clothing serves the purpose of privacy
- Clothing covers the back, chest, stomach, bottom, and private areas
- Close-toed shoes are required at the elementary level at all times (no slippers or house shoes). Middle and high school students may wear open-toed shoes (no slippers, house shoes or flip flops).

#### **Do NOT wear clothing or accessories that:**

- Are a disruption to the learning environment, including:
  - Clothing that displays obscene material, profanity, vulgar statements, gang symbols, hate messages, sexual innuendos, suicide, intolerance, violent messages, references to subversion or other messages which may be interpreted as being inappropriate or offensive.
  - Sagging pants, bottoms shorter than mid-thigh, shorts that expose any portion of the buttocks, clothes/jeans with rips or holes above mid-thigh, midriff- or abdomen-baring tops, open mesh clothing without proper clothing underneath, or tank tops with exposed undergarments.
- Are intended to be undergarments or sleepwear.
  - Examples: a-shirts, undershirts, camisole tops, pajama tops, pajama bottoms
- Promotes illegal use by minors such as alcohol, tobacco or drugs

#### **The following accessories are NOT permitted:**

- Any headgear, including hats and hoods worn over the head, unless approved by the administration.
  - Headgear worn as part of religious expression is exempt from this section of policy per administrator discretion.
- Sunglasses may not be worn in school unless prescribed by a doctor.

Dressing in any manner that presents a health or safety hazard or is a disruption, or could reasonably be expected to cause disruption, to the educational environment in the school will not be accepted. Administrators will enact the required and optional range of responses in situations where a student is not meeting the expectations of the dress code. The goal is to resolve the situation in the moment and prevent it from occurring again.

Ongoing issues with compliance to dress code expectations may result in a parent meeting being held. If students further refuse to comply with these requests, they will be retained in in-school suspension (ISS) until they are in compliance with our dress code.

Legal Ref.: Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
Bethal School District v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).  
Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Comm. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).  
Bystrom v. Fridley High School, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).  
Torvik v. Decorah Community School, 453 F.2d 779 (8th Cir. 1972).  
Turley v. Adel Community School District, 322 F.Supp. 402 (S.D. Iowa 1971).  
Sims v. Colfax Comm. School Dist., 307 F.Supp. 485 (Iowa 1970). Iowa Code § 279.8

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