

504R STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Statement

The staff, students, parents, and the Duluth Public Schools community recognized the importance and necessity for students' attire to be respectful and appropriate for school. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size. Duluth Public Schools expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities.

The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school district supports student attire that reflects their personal style and identity; that fosters a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment for all students, and the dress code celebrates and embraces the diversity and inclusion of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size as long as it doesn't interfere with the health, safety, and educational opportunities for students. Any restrictions to the way a student dresses must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school and must be explained within this dress code.

Our values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- Student dress code should support school attendance and engagement.
- Dress code violations should be addressed using student/body-positive language to explain the code.
- Teachers should focus on teaching and students focus on learning without the distraction and often uncomfortable burden of addressing dress code violations.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized whenever possible.

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric.

2. Student Must Wear, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A Shirt (with fabric in the front, back and sides that covers the middle torso) AND
- Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts) AND
- Weather & activity appropriate shoes.

3. Student May Wear:

- Headwear, such as hats, may be worn during the school day provided the head covering complies with other district policies, does not interfere with the learning environment, and does not obscure the face or ears, except as a religious observance.

- Staff may direct students to remove headwear that causes a disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process to the learning environment.

4. Students Cannot Wear:

- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed).
- Bulky jackets/coats intended for outside wear and must be kept in the student's locker during regular school hours.
- Clothing that includes words or pictures that are obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, convey sexual innuendo, abuse or discrimination, or which promote or advertise alcohol, chemicals, tobacco or any other product that is illegal for use by minors and illegal on school property, will not be allowed.
- Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols (including confederate flags & swastika's), derogatory mascots, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to any group, evidences of gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals is not allowed.

Students who are in violation of the dress code will be asked to change clothes, cover up existing clothing if possible or go home to change so that they meet dress code. In the event a student must go home and change, the parent will be contacted. The student must sign in and out at the Attendance Office.

References: 514 Bullying Prevention
521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination
522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy
541 Gender Inclusion
526 Hazing
413 Prohibiting Harassment and Violence
Duluth Public Schools Code of Conduct

Adopted: 06-15-2023