

Purpose

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority.

General Guidelines

Students shall be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. The District prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations.

The District prohibits pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that:

1. Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
2. Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under FNCF(LEGAL).

The student and parent may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the general guidelines set out above and with the student dress code outlined in the student handbook.

Standard Mode of Dress

The use of a standard mode of dress shall be established to improve students' self-esteem, reduce ethnic and racial tensions, bridge socioeconomic differences among students, promote positive behavior, enhance school safety, and improve the learning environment.

Definition

The definition of "standard mode of dress" shall be specific articles of clothing in styles and colors that are required to be worn by students at a particular school during the normal school hours or at school-related activities. Students may have the option to choose the color combination they wish to wear on any given day of the week. Regulations shall also apply to accessories, shoes, and outerwear.

Board Approval

In order to implement a standard mode of dress, a principal in consultation with the campus site-based committee must first receive approval from the Superintendent. If granted, the request must be submitted to the Board at least 90 calendar days before the planned implementation. The request submitted to the Superintendent and the Board must:

1. Give a reason why the standard mode of dress is being requested.
2. State all survey results.

3. Submit procedures and criteria for identifying students in need of financial assistance.
4. Include a plan and funding sources for providing clothing for educationally disadvantaged students.
5. Be consistent with the general criteria provisions of the dress code policy.
6. Establish a process and procedure for exemption from the standard mode of dress requirement or transfer to another school that does not require a standard mode of dress.
7. Identify the method of communication to be used to inform faculty, students, and parents about the standard dress requirement, clothing components, and other details.
8. Explain that dress code violations shall be handled as designated in the Student Code of Conduct.
9. Design an evaluation instrument to measure the effect of the mandatory dress code on the overall instruction program. Representatives from all groups involved shall continue in the evaluation process through the first school year. Evaluation of the regulation dress program shall be included in the school's regular annual review process.

Communication

This process must include discussion among the faculty and parents. All parents must be surveyed to verify whether or not there is support for a standard mode of dress. Implementation of a standard mode of dress is dependent upon a favorable rating by a majority of the total campus enrollment. Required clothing must be commonly available at a variety of retail outlets at a reasonable cost. All parents must be notified in writing of the standardized dress style(s) and color(s).

The Principal's Authority

At any campus that has established a standard mode of dress, the principal shall be authorized to determine whether or not a student is in compliance with the requirements.

The principal shall have the authority to allow all or part of the student body to vary from the standard mode of dress and establish an alternate mode of attire for special occasion days.

Students new to the school shall have 30 days to be in compliance with the dress code.

Evaluation

Schools that implement a standardized dress code shall have the campus site-based committee annually review the dress guidelines

and make recommendations for future revisions. Campus guidelines for the upcoming year shall be developed and distributed to parents, students, and faculty by January 1.

**Exemption
Requests**

A parent or guardian who desires to exempt his or her child from the school dress guidelines must use the following procedure. Exemptions shall only be allowed for bona fide religious or philosophical reasons. Prior to purchasing clothing, the parent should:

1. Request an exemption application from his or her child's school.
2. Submit the completed application to the principal or designee.
3. Meet with the principal or designee to discuss the school's dress policy and the nature of the objections. The purpose of this meeting shall be to ensure that the parent understands the goals of the policy, verify the accuracy of the application, and prevent misrepresentation.
4. Complete a new application each school year.

A student who has received an exemption must still comply with the general dress and grooming guidelines.

**Financial
Considerations**

No student shall be denied attendance in school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear a standardized mode of dress due to financial hardship. The school shall compile and maintain a list of community agencies, retailers, organizations, and individuals willing to assist students in need.

*Assistance
Applications*

A parent requesting financial assistance should use the following procedures:

1. Request an assistance application from his or her child's school;
2. Submit the completed application to the principal or designee;
3. Meet with the principal or designee to discuss the reason for financial assistance; and
4. Complete a new application each school year.

If financial assistance is granted, the clothing must be returned, clean and ready-to-wear, to the school at the end of the school year.

**Extracurricular
Activities**

The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate dress and grooming standards established for such an

activity may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct. [See FO series]

General Criteria

Secondary School
Students

The following shall apply to the dress of secondary school students:

1. Short-shorts, athletic shorts such as wind shorts, bicycle shorts, bare midriffs, halter tops, tank tops, see-through tops (such as loose woven or fishnet materials), tight fitting warm-ups/jogging suits, sun dresses, miniskirts, and sagging pants shall be prohibited.
2. Loose-fitting jogging suits/sweat suits shall be permitted.
3. Shorts may be worn. Mid-thigh length is appropriate. Knee-length is preferred. The principal's decision shall be final.
4. All dress and skirt lengths must fall no higher than the top of the knee.
5. Appropriate undergarments shall be worn.
6. Sunglasses, combs, hats, bandannas, and head coverings shall not be worn in the buildings. Head coverings worn for bona fide religious or medical reasons may be allowed. Potential exemptions shall be filed with the principal by the parent and shall be handled on an individual basis.
7. When belts are worn, they must be buckled; if there is no buckle, the belt must be tied.
8. Shirts and blouses must be buttoned.
9. Clothing or accessories with lettering, symbols, or decorations that detract from the learning process or illustrate or promote alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, drugs, sex, vulgarity, or violence either explicitly or by innuendo shall not be allowed.
10. T-shirts, hats, and other articles of clothing bearing words or symbols, color combinations, or any other recognized gang insignia, articles of clothing or uniforms shall, when recognized by the principal as such, be prohibited.
11. Shoes shall be worn at all times. Shoes designed for strings or buckles must be fully laced or fastened. Students shall not wear shoes that the principal determines to be a hazard to the safety of students or others on a campus.

12. Students shall not attend classes with their hair rolled up, nor shall they apply makeup in the classroom.
13. Hair shall be neat, clean, well groomed, and styled so that vision will not be obstructed. Hairstyles and hair colors that create a distraction shall not be allowed. If beards or mustaches are worn, they must be kept clean and neatly trimmed.
14. Students shall be permitted to wear earrings in their ears only. All other body-piercing objects shall not be allowed.
15. Tattoos must be covered.
16. At junior high or middle school programs and activities, students may not wear formal dress such as tuxedos and floor length or semiformal styled gowns. Appropriate dress for a school program or activity may be a suit or sport coat and dress slacks for males and dresses or skirts/blouses for females.

**Elementary School
Students**

All elementary school students may wear shorts but not short-shorts. Jogging shorts with more than a one-inch slit on the sides shall not be worn. Cut-off jeans may be worn, provided that they are hemmed and meet the requirements given for regular shorts. Jogging suits, sweat suits, and warm-ups may be worn. Bare midriffs, halter tops, see-through tops, and miniskirts shall not be worn.

All elementary students in kindergarten–grade 6 shall observe items 4–15 of the student dress code as listed above for secondary students.

All Students

These rules shall be in effect from the first day of school, from the time the student arrives on the school campus until he or she departs there from, and through the last day of school. Students who repeatedly disregard rules on dress or grooming shall be guilty of insubordination and shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the principal.

Alternative Settings

Students assigned to an alternative educational setting shall be governed by a more rigid dress code standard established by the principal at such campus. Upon entering the alternative educational campus, the student and parent shall be given a copy of such campus's dress code and rules. Students shall be expected to furnish their own appropriate clothing. All of the above general criteria shall apply to these students.