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RICHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming related to educational goals and community standards. This policy includes after school and community education programs for students unless uniforms are required for the program.

II. DEFINITIONS

Headgear is defined as anything worn on the head. Headgear includes but is not limited to hats, scarfs, hoodies, bandanas, and other forms of headwear.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. It is the policy of this school district to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student’s parent(s) or guardian(s).
- B. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Clothing that covers all undergarments and/or covers all private parts. Tops, bottoms, and shoes are required to be worn. Clothing worn for medical, cultural, or religious observances are allowed.
 - 2. Headgear is allowed provided it does not impede the student’s ability to engage in learning.
 - 3. Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
 - 4. Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).
- C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Clothing that does not cover all undergarments and/or does not cover all private parts.
 - 2. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.
 - 3. Objectionable 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 group,

Students

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50 evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances or
 51 provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or
 52 violence against other individuals as defined in School Board Policy
 53 103 pertaining to “Racial, Religious and Sexual Harassment and
 54 Violence.”

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 56 4. Any apparel or footwear that could damage school property.

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 58 5. Any headgear and/or hair accessories that block the face and/or
 59 create a barrier to the student’s ability to hear and/or engage in
 60 learning.

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 62 D. It is not the intention of this policy to infringe on the rights of students to
 63 express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing
 64 apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable
 65 as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, do not
 66 advocate violence or harassment against others or do not create a substantial
 67 disruption of the learning environment.

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 69 **IV. UNIFORM DRESS**

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 71 A. The Superintendent may authorize uniform dress guidelines for an
 72 individual school or program, provided that the guidelines reflect
 73 involvement of the school community, take into consideration the financial
 74 ability of students to purchase uniforms, and allow for exemptions upon
 75 parent request.

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 77 B. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate
 78 for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and
 79 parents/guardians.

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 81 C. An organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students
 82 considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation
 83 to the administration for approval.

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 85 **V. SANCTIONS**

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 87 When, in the judgment of the administration, a student’s appearance, grooming, or
 88 mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school
 89 activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student
 90 will be directed to make modifications. Parents/guardians will be notified.

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93 **Legal References:**
 94 U. S. Const., amend. I
 95 *Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)
 96 *Stephenson v. Davenport Community School District*, 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
 97 *Harper v. Poway Unified Sch. Dist.*, 445 F.3d 1166 (9th Cir. 2006)
 98 *Hicks v. Halifax County Board of Educ.*, 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D.N.C. 1999)

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99 *McIntire v. Bethel School, I.S.D. No. 3*, 804 F.Supp. 1415, 78 Educ. L.Rep. 828 (W.D.
100 Okla. 1992)

101 *Olesen v. Board of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228*, 676 F.Supp. 820, 44 Educ. L. Rep. 205
102 (N.D. Ill. 1987)

103

104 ***Cross References:***

105 Policy 103 (Harassment Prohibition)

106 Policy 541 (Student Behavior)

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