Dress Code (File JICA)

The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education (the Board) is committed to creating a learning environment that is safe, conducive to high student achievement, free from unnecessary disruption and gang activity or influence. The Board believes that the manner in which students dress, accessorize and groom themselves affects the learning environment. By their acceptable appearance (which includes dress, accessories and other body adornments, and grooming), students help create an environment that is conducive to their own, as well as all students' learning. Students' appearance, therefore, clearly has a direct and indirect influence on school discipline, academic achievement, and student success.

During school hours students' appearance shall be acceptable for the classroom and reinforce a positive learning environment. In addition, students' appearance at school-related functions including, but not limited to, special occasions and activities under the jurisdiction of the school, shall be acceptable for these occasions, regardless of where or when such occasions or activities occur. Clothing for school or school functions is hereinafter referred to as school attire.

The principal of any school may establish additional guidelines for its students with the approval of the Superintendent. Such guidelines may not fall below the minimum standards set out in this policy. Guidelines must ensure that the dress code does not single out or discriminate against religious expression or any other protected right. Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of the existence of the dress code, any guidelines, and consequences for violations at the time of initial enrollment and at the outset of each school year.

The Board supports the development of school uniform programs in order to maintain and promote orderly school functions, student safety and a positive learning environment. School uniform decisions shall be left to the school site, subject to Superintendent approval and the requirements of this policy. The input of staff, students and parents/guardians will be encouraged in all such decisions. Parents/guardians may opt their students out of the uniform program by submitting a waiver request to the building principal. Any parent/guardian whose student has been granted an opt out waiver by the principal or his/her designee shall not be denied attendance at school, penalized or otherwise subject to disciplinary action for failing to wear a uniform. Any student who does not wear the designated uniform, or who does not have an approved opt out waiver, is subject to disciplinary action by the principal or his/her designee.

School Attire

Dress code policies are established to promote uniformity of dress and to define and prohibit students from wearing apparel that is deemed disruptive to the learning environment or to the

maintenance of a safe and orderly school. Student appearance is expected to be acceptable for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing accessories, or body adornments that interfere with or disrupt the educational environment are unacceptable. Parents/guardians of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disability, or other good cause should contact the principal.

1) Clothing should be worn as designed and should cover private parts of the body. Clothing that inappropriately bares or exposes private parts of a body, including but not limited to the stomach, areas above mid-thigh, buttocks, back and breasts is unacceptable school attire.
2) Clothes, paraphernalia, jewelry, or body adornment that contain advertisements, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that are sexually suggestive; gang-, drug-, or alcohol related; obscene, profane, promote hate, or are disruptive or potentially disruptive to the learning environment are unacceptable school attire.
3) Ill-fitting clothing (i.e., clothing that is too tight or too loose) is unacceptable for school attire.
4) Clothing must cover undergarments. Clothing that is worn in such a manner as to expose undergarments (i.e., boxer shorts, bras, underwear) is unacceptable for school.
5) Cut-off t-shirts, half shirts, midriffs, tops with spaghettis straps, tube tops, see through or revealing tops are unacceptable school attire.
6) Pants or shorts that are in the mid-thigh range or longer where the waistband rises to at least the hips are acceptable school attire
7) Skirts or dresses that are mid-thigh or longer where the waistband rises to at least the hips are acceptable school attire.
8) Acceptable footwear is required to be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are considered unacceptable school attire.
9) Items considered sleepwear or lounge pants are considered unacceptable school attire.
10) Sunglasses and hats are unacceptable school attire, unless being worn for protection from the sun and approved by a teacher or administrator to be worn during an outside school activity.

Implementation

Any students who come to school without proper attention having been given to their appearance, which includes cleanliness, in violation of this policy may be asked to cover the non-complying clothing, disciplined, sent home to be properly prepared for school, and required to prepare himself or herself for the classroom before re-entering school. Students who violate this policy in a continuing or flagrant manner may also be recommended for suspension and/or expulsion.

A principal or her/his designee may authorize exceptions from the above dress restrictions for specially designated days, health reasons, or for school-sponsored activities.