

Maple School District

29161 FRESNO AVENUE
SHAFTER, CALIFORNIA 93263-9719
PH. (661) 746-4439
FAX (661) 746-4765

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOEL ACKERKNECHT
RANDY BLOEMHOF
TYLER ROGERS

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
BRYAN EASTER

October 17, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of middle school students,

This letter is being sent out to provide clarity and an answer moving forward to an online petition through the *Change.org* platform titled “Choice, Comfort, Confidence: Allow students to change out for PE” with 136 public signatures. This online petition tool is an internet based open platform for any visitor to start a petition for any cause or concern. This petition is in regards to the Maple School Districts physical education dress out policy.

The schoolwide policy states - “PE preparedness is wearing athletic shoes and proper attire to school. Maple is not a change out school, students wear appropriate attire to school to participate in activity throughout the day.”

Please note, California Education Code gives School Districts the discretion to create their own policy in regards to dressing out for Physical Education activities.

This past week, I had the opportunity to meet with two parents representing the petition for our first formal meeting on this topic. I listened to their feedback, ideas and desires which were echoed by many of you through the support of the petition. As someone who personally values the ability of the public to give input in their children's public education, I appreciate the efforts of the petition and those involved.

However, I would like to clarify some misinformation listed within the petition. First, the petition states “students *often* face the dilemma of participating in physical education while wearing spirit uniforms”. Many of our students participate in non-school based organizations (i.e. cheer, football) where they are asked to wear the associated uniforms by the outside organization. On very rare occasions, these students wear these uniforms on non-game days. This is not a common issue due to the infrequent non gameday weeks and our students are asked to wear their Maple game day uniforms per the *Maple Physical Education Sports Guidelines*.

Second, the petition alleges that by not allowing students to dress out, “their safety is compromised”. The Maple School District dress code does not create an unsafe environment for physical education. Footwear is one of the most important components to safe athletic participation and our students have never been prevented from changing their footwear. In addition, our school dress code offers flexibility for students and students participate safely throughout the day in activities while wearing their school attire.

Lastly, the original draft of the petition (this section has since been removed) listed three decision makers for the petition; one who was the previous Kern County Superintendent of Schools and two Greenfield School District Board Members. I want to be clear that our Governance team; Superintendent and Board of Trustees, are the decision makers for our school district. Guided by education policy, we work with staff, students and families to lead our amazing district.

Dressing out for Physical Education requires proper facilities, time, supervision and coordination. We do not believe our multipurpose restrooms are appropriate for a locker room dress out atmosphere. With three or four stalls and over 90 students, we believe this creates a less than ideal scenario. In addition, Physical Education time has been reduced in recent years to add more time into core subjects like Math and English. We want to avoid cutting into elective and PE time even more with a designated dress-out time.

At this time we will move forward with the current policy. I will commit to looking for solutions in the future and include work towards including facilities into master planning for our new campus area east of Maple.

Should you have any additional questions, ideas or information, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Thank you,



Maple School District, Superintendent