CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATION

R-5131

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. Community Standards

The Clark County School District (CCSD) reserves the right to promote that the dress and grooming of students are within the limits of generally accepted community standards. Students shall be required to show proper attention to personal cleanliness. Students have a responsibility to dress in alignment with the CCSD dress and appearance guidelines in the *Clark County School District Pre-Kindergarten–12 Student Code of Conduct.*

II. Educational Environment Standards

Student's dress, personal appearance, and conduct are required to be of such character as not to disrupt or detract from the educational environment of the school. Any style which tends to diminish instructional effectiveness or classroom management by teachers is not acceptable.

III. Responsibility

The school administration shall have the right to designate which types of dress, fashion, fads, or appearance disrupt or detract from the educational program and may be a potential safety hazard. The principal shall retain the authority to grant exceptions for spirit days, special event dress days, and schoolwide free dress days. On those CCSD/school sanctioned exception days, schools will notify the students and parents/guardians of the unique dress provisions.

IV. Basic Student Dress Code

The CCSD Basic Student Dress Code serves to provide guidelines for student dress and appearance at all District schools, regardless of adoption of Standard Student Attire. Students are to be dressed in such a manner that their appearance in the school contributes to the learning environment. Exemption from the CCSD Basic Student Dress Code may be permitted for medical or religious reasons.

CCSD does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed/religion, color, national or ethnic origin, hair textures, protective hairstyle (to include without limitation, hairstyles, such as natural hairstyles, hair textures, afros, bantu knots, curls, braids, locks, and twists), sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or disability.

A. Information and Basic Student Dress Code Provisions

The *Clark County School District Pre-Kindergarten–12 Student Code of Conduct*, school-based handbooks, school Web sites, and/or newsletters prepared at each organizational level (elementary, middle/junior high, or senior high) shall express uniformity on specific requirements and prohibitions. Each school will be responsible for in-service activities to familiarize students and staff with the enforcement procedures of these requirements. Notifications of dress code changes occurring during the school year shall be sent promptly to parents/guardians. Statements which incorporate the following provisions for the Basic Student Dress Code shall be included in the notifications:

1. Require the wearing of shoes with soles. House slippers and shoes with wheels are not permitted.

2. All clothing must be sufficient to conceal any and all undergarments. No skin will show between bottom of shirt/blouse and top of pants or skirts at any time. All sleeveless shirts must have straps at least three inches wide. Prohibited tops include, but are not limited to, crop tops, tank tops, strapless, low-cut clothing, clothing with slits, or tops and outfits that provide minimum coverage.

3. Require that all shorts, skorts, skirts, and jumpers/dresses must be at fingertip length.

4. All jeans, pants, and trousers must be secured at waist level. Sagging is strictly prohibited. Jeans, pants, and trousers are not to have rips or tears that expose undergarments and/or are located mid-thigh or higher.

5. Headgear (hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, hair grooming aids, etc.) is not permitted on campus except for designated school approved uniforms, special events, authorized athletic practices, documented medical conditions, bona fide religious reasons, culturally responsive practices, or CCSD/school sanctioned activities.

6. Slogans or advertising on clothing, jewelry, buttons, and/or accessories which by their controversial, discriminatory, profane, and/or obscene nature disrupt the educational setting are prohibited.

7. Any clothing, jewelry, buttons, and/or accessories that promote illegal or violent conduct, or affiliation with groups that promote illegal or violent conduct, such as, but not limited to, the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, prejudice, discrimination, tobacco, drug paraphernalia, or clothing that contains threats are prohibited.

8. Spiked or studded clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories are prohibited.

9. Outerwear, such as coats, mittens, and scarves, must be removed upon entering the classrooms/buildings. Administrators, teachers, and staff may use their discretion as appropriate based on the temperature in the facility.

10. The Basic Student Dress Code provisions [Section IV(A)(1-9)], and if adopted by the school, Standard Student Attire provisions [Section V(D)], shall be included in the student and parent/guardian notifications.

V. Standard Student Attire

Standard Student Attire provides an option for those communities that would like to have students wear Standard Student Attire for the purposes of increasing student achievement, promoting safety, and enhancing a positive school climate. Exemption from the Standard Student Attire may be permitted for medical or religious reasons [Section V(G)(4)(b)].

A. With the consent of the region superintendent or school associate superintendent, principals may establish a policy that requires pupils to wear Standard Student Attire. Each school that chooses to participate will separately determine appropriate attire, programs for financial assistance, and work with members of the school community to ensure community involvement. The implementation of Standard Student Attire at a specific school site must adhere to the parameters as set forth by this regulation.

1. A school that chooses to implement Standard Student Attire must conduct a survey of families. The survey will be administered electronically, with one survey response per household at the school. At least 10 percent of the surveys sent to the families must be returned and 55 percent of the surveys returned must agree to implement Standard Student Attire. The survey shall be designed, administered, and reported centrally through the Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement Division.

2. The survey shall pose the sole question as to whether the parents/guardians support the school adopting Standard Student Attire. Pro and con statements and a description of required Standard Student Attire will be included on the survey.

3. Schools will survey their community every fourth year. The surveys will be administered by the Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement Division.

4. Parents/Guardians of students who do not desire to attend a Standard Student Attire school may request a Change of School Assignment under the provisions of CCSD Regulation 5112. A Change of School Assignment may be granted based on the provisions of CCSD Regulation 5112. It is not necessary to wait until the survey process is complete to request a Change of School Assignment.

B. With the approval of the region superintendent or school associate superintendent, a school may implement voluntary Standard Student Attire without going through the survey process if students and parents/guardians are provided a non-participation option. The non-participation option may be exercised by parents/guardians submitting a written, signed Application for Exemption, and discussing the option with the principal or designee. The school shall determine Standard Student Attire clothing requirements from the list set forth in Section V(D). Notification of the final decision to implement voluntary Standard Student Attire (for the following school year) will be sent to families that make up the population of the student body via the District's electronic communication method no later than May 31 of the current school year. The decision will be posted on the school's public website no later than May 31 of the current school year. Upon parent/guardian request, printed notification will be provided.

C. The principal and the site-based committee consisting of students, parents/guardians, staff, and administrators shall determine Standard Student Attire requirements from the following list. The committee shall consist of an odd number of members with a minimum of 11 members. The committee membership shall have six parents/guardians, two teachers/staff, two students, and one administrator. Stricter Standard Student Attire requirements than those delineated below may be implemented through the committee-based survey process as set forth in Section VI.

D. Basic colors of khaki, navy, and white will be required at all Standard Student Attire schools. Optional colors may be added based on the Standard Student Attire committee's input. In addition, depending on the committee's selections, the final surveys may not necessarily include all the options listed below. The options selected shall not be characterized as gender-specific.

1. Tops
   a. Shirts in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo, long- or short-sleeved, with or without collar).
   b. Sweaters in basic/optional colors (work over approved shirts).
   c. Sweatshirts in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo).
   d. Jumpers or dresses in basic/optional colors.

2. Bottoms
    a. Pants, shorts, jeggings/yoga pants, skirts, skorts in basic/optional colors (sized to fit).
    b. Blue jeans in basic/optional colors (sized to fit).
    c. Denim pants in basic/optional colors (sized to fit).
    d. Sweatpants in basic/optional colors (sized to fit).
    e. Tights/leggings in basic/optional colors (worn under approved clothing).

3. Miscellaneous
    a. Ties in basic/optional colors.

The school logo may only include the school name and/or school mascot. No other names or symbols related to school athletic teams, school clubs/activities, charitable organizations, or similar groups/organizations should be on the clothing.

Colors and styles of outerwear, such as jackets and coats, are not required to meet the color/style specifications of Standard Student Attire.

E. Special Occasions at Schools Implementing Standard Student Attire

On those CCSD/school sanctioned exemption days, schools will notify the students and parents/guardians of the unique dress provisions.

F. Compliance Measures

1. All students enrolled in site-specific schools that have determined to implement Standard Student Attire are required to wear the adopted school attire. Additionally, all Standard Student Attire violations will result in disciplinary action in alignment with the *Clark County School District Pre-Kindergarten–12 Student Code of Conduct.*

2. Each school shall develop positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with Standard Student Attire. Each school should strive to achieve full compliance through use of positive reinforcement measures, and should resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, schools shall communicate with parents/guardians so that the expectations, rationale, and benefits are fully understood by the student and his/her family.

3. Since the intent of the policy is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in Standard Student Attire from receiving the education to which he/she is entitled, no student shall receive a lowered

academic grade as a result of not complying. See CCSD Regulation 5121, Student Progress: Grading (Grades Kindergarten through Twelve). In addition, prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the policy, the school will conference with the student and give him or her an opportunity to change into Standard Student Attire. Additionally, a conference with the parent/guardian must be held with a school administrator to ensure the parent/guardian is aware of the policy and possible consequences of non-compliance.

4. Exemptions

a. A parent/guardian may apply for their child to be exempt from Standard Student Attire in the following instances:

(1) When the parent/guardian can demonstrate a bona fide religious objection to wearing Standard Student Attire.

(2) When wearing Standard Student Attire is inappropriate due to a verified medical condition.

b. Exemption Procedures

(1) Parents/Guardians may apply for their child to be exempt from Standard Student Attire for that particular school year by submitting a written, signed Application for Exemption to the school principal.

(2) If the parent/guardian requests an exemption based upon a bona fide religious objection, the Application for Exemption must include a written statement explaining the religious belief and how it is adversely affected by complying with Standard Student Attire.

(3) The parent/guardian shall meet with the school principal or designee to discuss Standard Student Attire and the nature of the objections to Standard Student Attire. The purposes of this meeting include (a) ensuring that the parents/guardians understand the reasons for and goals of Standard Student Attire; (b) verifying the accuracy of the information on the Application for Exemption; and (c) preventing fraud or misrepresentation.

(4) A decision to grant or deny the Application for Exemption will be made by the school principal. If the principal denies the Application for Exemption, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the region superintendent or school associate superintendent. If the denial is upheld by the school associate superintendent/designee, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The decision by the Superintendent of Schools or designee shall be final. The student will be exempt from the Standard Student Attire requirements while the Application for exemption is being processed. During this time, students will still be required to comply with the Basic Student Dress Code provisions as set forth in Section IV.

5. Students will be expected to wear the school approved Standard Student Attire during regular school hours while in attendance at the school or school approved functions. Regular school hours are considered to be the accepted regular school academic day.

G. Information Dissemination

It is the responsibility of the school to communicate to parents/guardians information including general guidelines for enforcement of Standard Student Attire.

H. Financial Considerations

1. No students shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear Standard Student Attire by reason of financial hardship.

2. Each school shall:

a. Develop a procedure to identify families in need of financial assistance.

b. Work with staff, the local school community, and business partners to identify resources for assisting families.

c. Assist those identified families to purchase the approved attire.

VI. Standard Student Attire Determination Procedure

Parent/Guardian support for Standard Student Attire is critical for its implementation and success. Therefore, parent/guardian involvement in the decision-making process must take place throughout the procedure.

Prior to the implementation of voluntary or mandatory Standard Student Attire, the individual school considering Standard Student Attire will:

A. Ensure student, parent/guardian, and staff input and involvement throughout the decision-making process.

B. Thoroughly review with students, parents/guardians, and staff available research on the advantages/disadvantages of Standard Student Attire.

C. Openly communicate with students, parents/guardians, and staff all issues of Standard Student Attire actively seeking their input, suggestions, and recommendation(s).

D. Should a decision be made to implement Standard Student Attire, the principal and the site-based committee shall determine Standard Student Attire. The committee membership shall align with the requirements set forth in Section V(C).

E. If a school has met the criteria provided for in Section V(A), the principal, with the approval of the region superintendent or school associate superintendent, will determine whether to implement mandatory Standard Student Attire. The requirement to survey families contained in Section V(A)(1) does not apply to voluntary Standard Student Attire.

F. With approval of the region superintendent or school associate superintendent, a school and the Standard Student Attire site-based committee in accordance with CCSD established timelines, may initiate after a minimum of one year of implementation, the survey process in order to discontinue implementation of mandatory Standard Student Attire prior to the expiration of the identified survey cycle.

G. In order to give adequate time to plan for the opening of the school year, notification of the final decision will be sent to families that make up the population of the student body via the District’s communication method no later than May 31 of the current school year. Results will also be posted on the school’s public website no later than May 31 of the current school year. Upon parent/guardian request, printed notification will be provided.

H. The requirement to survey families contained in Section V(A)(1) does not apply to schools which provide services in an alternative school

setting/location as identified by the Education Services Division. It is not practical to survey families at these schools due to the temporary assignment of the student population. Therefore, the Assistant Superintendent of the Education Services Division shall have the authority to adopt Standard Student Attire as identified in Section V(D) at these schools.

Legal Reference:	Nevada Revised Statutes 386.855 Senate Bill 327 of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature
Review Responsibility:	Education Services Division
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