



2026-2027



STUDENT HANDBOOK & AGENDA

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Property of _____

Grade _____ Homeroom _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter	3
Step Ahead Mission, Vision & Core Values	4
Guiding principles	4
School Pledge and Motto	5
Step Ahead Academy Staff	6
Bell Schedule	7
Meal/Textbook Assistance	8
IPS Grading Scale	8
Attendance	9-10
Students Tardy to Class	11
Students Leaving School Early	11
Attendance	12
Electronic Devices	13-14
Parent Involvement	14
Student Services	14



Medications during School Hours	14
Student Conduct	13-14
Student/Parent Contract	15
Bullying	17
Title IX Policy	17-18
IPS Uniform Dress Code Males & Females	19-22



Step Ahead Academy

Angela Denman, Principal

4900 Julian Ave. Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the Step Ahead Academy. The Step Ahead Academy is an accelerated program designed for highly motivated students that have had challenges in the past causing them to be retained, held back etc. The Step Ahead Academy teaches two years of curriculum in one calendar year providing the opportunity for our students to complete two grade levels in one school year with the exception of 8th grade. All 8th graders can earn up to 2 high school credits through Biology.

Please note... This is not a program designed for students with major behavior issues. The program is focused on student achievement and character development for each student admitted into the Academy. We want to stress the unique opportunity this provides for each of our students. However, it is not guaranteed that all of our students will be double promoted. It will take focus, determination and a willingness to learn from both our students and parents for the program to work for you. We have a wonderful staff that is here to help you achieve each of your academic goals. You have already taken the right step towards your academic career by attending STEP Ahead Academy. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you throughout the school year as we embark on this meaningful journey together.

Hours of Operation

Office Opens: 8:00 am

Classes Begin: 9:00 am

Breakfast: 8:45 am

Dismissal: 4:00 pm

Office Close: 5:00 pm

School Uniform

Pants/Shorts/Skirt: Solid colors in Black, Khaki or Navy

Shirts: Solid color with a collar in Black, White and any shade of Red

Belts: Required at ALL times

Office Close: 5:00pm



******Shirts MUST be tucked in at ALL times******

Step Ahead Academy: Mission, Vision and Core Values

Mission: The Step Ahead Academy community is focused on growing individuals with an unyielding commitment to their future

Vision: The graduates of Step Ahead Academy will demonstrate skills necessary to be successful in their age appropriate grade level as well as responsible and productive citizens in their communities.

Core Values:

- **Responsibility:** A desire for knowledge and learning; the character, qualities, or attainments of a scholar.
- **Respect:** a high level of regard and consideration for oneself and others; i.e., in conduct, dress, communication and deference.
- **Productive: superior performance, outstanding quality, and academic excellence.**
- **Persistence:** Mental and moral strength, in the face of danger and in difficult situations.

Step Ahead Academy Guiding Principles

1. Children Come First!
2. All Employees are accountable for student achievement that meets or exceeds state standards.
3. All employees will demonstrate professionalism and integrity.
4. Student success is the only option.
5. Potential is discovered and nurtured.
6. Academic rigor is the norm.
7. Communication is clear, open, and timely.
8. Students, parents, families, and community members are essential partners.
9. Diversity is valued as demonstrated by culturally competence practices.
10. Facilities are clean and inviting

School Pledge: Today I believe in myself and my ability to do my best at all times. I will give respect and earn respect, I will accept responsibilities, I will strive for excellence in attitude, behavior, and my character. Today, I Pledge to be the best possible me.



MOTTO: Students at Step Ahead Academy are
Taking Responsibility and
Expecting Excellence through
Problem solving and critical thinking

2026-2027
Step Ahead Academy Staff

Staff Name	Title	Room
Tanya Terry	Receptionist	Main Office 370B
Vacant	Admin. Associate	Main Office 370A
Daniel Compton	5th Grade Teacher	346
Cora Shields	5 th Grade Teacher	347
Angela Denman	Building Administrator STEP Ahead	357
Nicole Sarkas	Art Teacher	345
Ronda Young	Social Worker	352A
Julanne Dubois	SPED Teacher	348
Charles Laster	Media Assistant	350 - Media Center
Keith Jones	Behavior Adjustment Facilitator	352
Christopher Barrer	ELA Teacher	349
Shawna Vertrees	ELA Teacher	366
Cole Louison	Math Teacher	365
Ward, Kim	PE Teacher	844 - Gym
Clay, William	Math Teacher	351
Ariana Adams	Social Studies	361



Daniel Dippel	Science Teacher	364
Candace Stapinski	Counselor	352A
antoinette Holmes	Dean	Rm. 352
Veena Mehta	ENL Teacher	Rm. 348

Bell Schedule

PERIOD 1:

Advisory/Homeroom

9:00-9:30 AM

Period 4:

11:55-1:03 PM

PERIOD 2:

9:33-10:41 AM

Lunch 5:

1:00- 1:36 PM

PERIOD 3:

10:44-11:52 AM

PERIOD 6:

1:39-2:47

PERIOD 7:



2:50-3:58PM

DISMISSAL- 4PM

Meal/Textbook Assistance

Parents who want to receive meal and textbook assistance for their children must submit an application. Students from households that meet federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and free textbooks. Students from households receiving food stamps or TANF are eligible for free meals and free textbooks. To avoid unwanted charges, it is best to submit an application before school opens.

To receive textbook assistance, an application must be submitted even if the student attends a school in which universal free meals are provided. Application forms are mailed each August to all families whose children attended IPS schools the previous school year. Parents are asked to return a completed application in a postage-free envelope enclosed in the mailing. Applications are available in the schools for students new to IPS and for students who did not receive an application in the mail. After school begins, parents may return completed applications to the school. Only one application per household is necessary. For more information call **226-4951**. Parents will be notified in writing if the application for meal and/or textbook assistance is approved or denied. If children transfer to another IPS school during the school year, a new application is not necessary.

IPS Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage Value to Grade
A	95-100
A-	92-94
B+	89-91
B	84-88
B-	82-83
C+	79-81
C	75-78
C-	73-74
D+	71-72
D	67-70
D-	65-66
F	0-64



	Students must receive a passing grade of “D” or higher in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. The student must also maintain at least a “C” average in all other subject areas combined.
	Eligibility to participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities requires a C average.
	Students with two or more F’s on their progress report or report card, may be assigned to the extensive pull-out and after-school tutorials...

Students Tardy to Class:

Students late to class may receive the following consequences:

1st Tardy - Verbal warning, document

2nd Tardy - Verbal warning, document

3rd Tardy- Notice to parent documenting tardies,

4th Tardy - Arrange a parent-teacher conference, (may be a phone conference,) document

5th Tardy - Referral to administration,

Possible Consequences for 5th and Subsequent Tardy Violations:

Lunch Detention, After-School Detention, Saturday School, In-School Suspension, other consequences as determined by administrative team.

Students Leaving School Early

Parents/guardians may come into the main office to sign-out their child. A written excuse should be turned in the following day. The absence will be excused according to IPS policy.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The Indiana Department of Education requires accurate and consistent reporting of student attendance by the Indianapolis Public Schools. This District-wide policy is aimed at reducing truancy.

Indiana’s Compulsory School Attendance law requires students to attend school each year for the number of days that schools are in session. Regular school attendance is important if students are going to achieve at high levels.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following types of absences are generally recognized as excused, subject to requirements set forth in I.C. 20-33-2:

	A. Documented illness or emergency
	B. Health care and social services appointments



	C. Pages in Indiana General Assembly
	D. Death in the immediate family
	E. Religious instruction commitments
	F. Subpoena as a witness in a judicial proceeding
	G. Participation in Election Day activities
	H. Active Duty in the Indiana National Guard
	I. Detention in Juvenile or Criminal Justice System

If a student is absent because of illness or emergency, the parent must contact the school the morning of the day the student is absent, and/or provide a note on the day following the absence. In those cases where a student is absent for five (5) or more consecutive days as a result of illness or injury, a doctor's statement shall be required as a condition of classifying the absence as excused.

A pattern of excused absences may be an indication that the student's attendance is not in alignment with District policy and may be treated as unexcused. If there is doubt as to the legitimacy of the excuses, the principal makes a determination that the absences are unexcused after an investigation. In such case, the student's parents shall be given notice of the principal's determination and afforded an opportunity to contest that determination.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

With the exception of absences resulting from suspension, all absences other than those listed above generally shall be classified as unexcused unless extenuating circumstances, as determined by the principal, warrant that the absence will be classified as excused.

The following procedures will be implemented to help ensure student attendance:

A.	Students who miss up to three (3) unexcused days within a school year will have their parents contacted by the classroom teacher. <u>This contact should be documented by the teacher.</u>
B.	The social worker will also contact the student's parent after the student has missed three (3) unexcused days. An additional parent contact will be made by the social worker after the student has missed a fourth unexcused day. The social worker will work with the child's parents to identify barriers to the child's attendance and possible strategies to remove these obstacles, and to develop a plan to improve the student's attendance.
C.	When a student has had five (5) unexcused absences in a school year, the student is identified as a Chronic Truant and the student's attendance records will be flagged (CT). The social worker will continue to work with the student to correct the attendance problem. The social worker will also send a certified letter to the student's parents notifying the parents of potential legal action.
D.	When a student has had ten (10) unexcused absences in a school year, the student is identified as a Habitual Truant and the student's attendance records will be flagged (HT). If a student is enrolled in a middle school or a high school and is under the age of eighteen (18), the District will refer the student to truancy court for a violation of I.C. 20-33-2 (compulsory school attendance). Students who are determined to be in violation of I.C. 20-33-2 may be placed on probation by the court and will be monitored more closely by the



		social worker. If a student violates the terms of the probation, the student will be referred back to court for additional action.

Personal Property/Electronic Devices

Only items needed for educational purposes should be brought to school. There are to be no cards, dice, toys, headphones, earphones, radios, beepers, tape players, electronic games or electronic devices permitted on campus. This includes MP3 players, iPods, games, digital cameras, cell phones, etc. The items will be confiscated and stored in the main office until parents can pick them up. Repeated violations may result in after school detention or additional disciplinary actions.

Parent Involvement

The Parent Center is available during school hours. The Parent Liaison is available to assist parents with contacting teachers, finding resources, and getting involved. Monthly activities include the Dad's Breakfast, Mom's Breakfast, and Parent Workshops. Grandparents Barbecue, Technology Training, and Guest Readers are scheduled each semester. Parents are welcome to visit any time. Teacher conferences must be scheduled to avoid interrupting classes.

Student Services

We have a Social Worker who is capable of assisting students and families. She is able to work to assist students in coping with teen challenges.

Medications during School Hours

Before any prescribed medication or treatment may be administered to and student during school hours, the school nurse shall require the written prescription from the child's physician accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. This document shall be kept on file. The prescription must be in its original container, labeled with the student's name and the exact dosage. At no time is the school to administer a dosage other than that authorized by the physician's prescription.

Student Conduct Rules

The rules listed below apply to student conduct:

1. During school activities on or off school property.
2. On school property at any time.
3. While traveling to or from school or a school activity including bus transportation to and from school.

The following rules define misconduct for which a student may be suspended, expelled, or removed from the magnet program.

1. Behavior that injures or presents a risk of injury to the student or another person.
2. Damaging or stealing school property or the property of another person or organization.
3. Disrupting a class or school activity.
4. Harassing, bullying, threatening, hazing or intimidating another person.



5. Possessing a knife, firearm, bullets, a dangerous device, fireworks, or other item that appears to be a dangerous device. "Dangerous device" means an item that is readily capable of causing injury to a person and is not essential in performing a task that must be performed by a student for school purposes.
6. Consuming, possessing, offering, providing, or being under the influence of alcohol or an alcoholic beverage and illegal drug, a prescription drug, an over-the-counter medication containing a stimulant or any substance represented to be or thought by the intended recipient to be an illegal or prescription drug.
7. Consuming, possessing, offering, providing or being under the influence of an inhalant, a solvent, or other volatile substance or combination of volatile substances, contrary to safety instructions provided on the product's labeling, or the direction of school personnel.
8. Possessing drug preparation or drug consumption paraphernalia such as rolling papers, clips, or displaying materials that promote or encourage alcohol or drug use.
9. Possessing cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, or other tobacco product or a device such as a lighter designed primarily for use in consuming tobacco products.
10. Wearing clothing, jewelry or a hairstyle that is dangerous to the student, indecent, vulgar, profane, indicative of gang activity or affiliation, or presents a message that is inconsistent with the educational mission of the School District, or results in disruption of an educational function. Clothing that violates this rule includes shirts or jackets with an alcoholic beverage logo or slogan, or a message that encourages the use of alcohol or illegal drugs.
11. Cheating, plagiarizing, submitting the work of another person for academic credit, allowing another student to cheat, or violating the building level student honor code.
12. Creating or distributing information including information distributed via e-mail or through a web site that results in or is likely to result in the disruption of an educational function, advocates a violation of law or a student conduct rule, is sexually explicit or obscene, is libelous, slanderous or defamatory, or invades the privacy of an identified or identifiable person. Web sites maintained on servers other than School District servers are covered by this conduct rule where the content of the communication is in violation of this rule.
13. Possessing a pager, cellular phone, or two-way radio during the school day without prior approval of the principal. Possession of a pager or phone at a school activity after the normal school day shall not violate this rule if the pager or phone is provided by the parent/guardian. A pager or phone approved by the principal shall be capable of silent operation and shall be set so as not to emit an audible alert or signal during an academic class, study hall or convocation.

* *Parents/guardians are advised that the best way to contact their child during the school day is to call the main office of the child's school.*

* *Students may use the school office phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.*

14. Refusing or failing to follow a directive from a school employee with responsibility for student supervision (including Instructional Assistants, Bus Drivers, and Bus Attendants), including a directive to respond truthfully and completely with questions about a school-related matter.
15. Violating a building level student conduct rule or Transportation Department student conduct rule approved by the Board of School Trustees/Education.
16. Violating the School District's policy on acceptable use of the Internet, computers, e-mail, or voice mail, facsimile machines or any other School District communications resource.
17. Violating Indiana or Federal law.
18. Attempting to commit an act which is a violation of these student conduct rules. (Example: Attempting to punch another student but missing.)
19. Aiding, assisting or conspiring with another person to violate student conduct rules or state or federal law.
20. Failing to report the actions or plans for action of another person to a teacher or administrator where those actions or



plans, if carried out, could result in harm to a person or persons or damage property.

NOTE; THE FOLLOWING ACTS WILL LEAD TO IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND/OR ARREST:

***BULLYING OTHERS**

***THREATS TO OTHERS**

***SERIOUS OR REPEATED MISCONDUCT**

***POSSESSION OF WEAPONS**

***VIOLENT BEHAVIOR**

***SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

***DRUG VIOLATION**

***CONFRONTATIONS ON SCHOOL BUS TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

***DANGEROUS ACTIONS OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS (BUS STOP)**

BUS CONDUCT

Safe transportation is an integral part of the total education of each child. Riding a school bus is a privilege that may be removed from inappropriate behavior. Bus drivers are in charge and are expected to report students who cause disturbance, refuse to cooperate or interfere with the safety of the bus. Such reports will result in disciplinary actions including the loss of privilege to ride the bus. Failure to comply with school rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. Students are expected to behave appropriately while riding the school bus. Failure to do so will result in the following consequences:

1st violation	Referral from Bus Driver/Warning, Parent Contact from Administrator
2nd violation	Referral from Bus Driver/One Day Bus Suspension
3rd violation	Referral from Bus Driver/ Three Day Bus Suspension
4th violation	Referral from Bus Driver/ Five Day Bus Suspension
5th violation	Referral from Bus Driver/Suspension from school and Indefinite bus suspension pending conference with Bus Driver, Parent and Administrator.
6th violation	Referral from Bus Driver/Suspension from school and Removal from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Students are to ride the bus which they are assigned. Any request to ride a different bus or be picked up or left off at a different location **MUST** be submitted to the building administrator in writing by the parent or guardian a day prior. Students riding the bus are expected to comply with the list of rules below:



- a. Students will not stand or move around during the trip. Students must not enter or leave the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the door has been opened.
- b. Loud, boisterous, profane language, indecent conduct, teasing, hitting or scuffling will not be tolerated.
- c. Eating, drinking, smoking and cell phone use is prohibited.
- d. Windows or doors will not be opened except by the direction of the Bus Driver.
- e. Students must be waiting at their boundary station/bus stop when the bus arrives. The driver is not required to wait for you.
- f. When a student misses the dismissal of the bus due to horseplay and/or loitering, the parent is responsible for providing transportation home.
- g. Bus substitutions will be announced daily prior to dismissal.
- h. Transportation problems should be reported to the TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT @ 226-4500.



THE STEP AHEAD ACADEMY 2026-2027 CONTRACT

All STEP AHEAD ACADEMY stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, administrators and staff), in order to secure the benefits of a meaningful and engaging academic curriculum; do solemnly proclaim the following beliefs:

- At the STEP AHEAD ACADEMY, our core values establish that we are entirely vested in the winning OUTCOMES of all of our students. Because we prize LEARNING and INDIVIDUAL GROWTH, we possess an unyielding commitment to the FUTURES of our students, whether they seek college placement, job skills, career path enhancements, personal enrichment or academic knowledge.
- It is our shared responsibility that all students are provided with an equitable education.
- Parental involvement in their child's education is required for the success of the student.
- The purpose of this education is to provide students with a strong academic experience at the middle school level.

PARENT CONTRACT

Parents agree to meet the following conditions in order for their child to attend and remain in the STEP AHEAD ACADEMY:

- An expectation that parental involvement in their child's education is vital to academic success.
- I agree that my child will adhere to the Step Ahead Academy behavior code of conduct, uniform dress code, and levels of academic achievement.
- I understand that cell phones will not be permitted during school hours.
- I understand if caught using my phone, it will be taken
- I agree to support my child's success with the curriculum.
- I agree to attend **at least three** parent/teacher conferences each year.
- I agree to allow my child to attend an after-school program at least two hours per week.
- I agree to permit my child to participate in community service projects, field trips, research, and experiential learning opportunities.
- I agree to encourage and work with my child to value and produce quality schoolwork

STUDENT CONTRACT

Students agree to meet the following conditions in order to attend and remain in the STEP AHEAD ACADEMY:

- I agree to adhere to STEP AHEAD ACADEMY behavior code of conduct, uniform dress code, and to maintain required academic achievement levels.
- I understand that cell phones will not be permitted during school hours.
- I understand if caught using my phone, it will be taken.
- I agree to work to my potential, in my schoolwork, and in all endeavors.
- I agree to participate in after- school activities (co-curricular, extra-curricular, or volunteer as directed
- I agree to participate in community service projects as designed by my teachers.
- I agree to accept advice, to value and produce quality schoolwork and make choices that further my education.
- I agree to embrace the use of technology and understand using technology inappropriately can lead to disciplinary action.

Media Release

I give my child permission to be photographed for IPS promotional purposes

I do not give my child permission to be photographed for IPS promotional purposes



By signing below you agree to the above rules.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

BULLYING

Bullying is prohibited in the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) as referenced in Indiana Code 20-33-8-0.2 and IPS Board Resolution No. 5517.01.

Bullying is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment.

Students may not engage in bullying on school grounds, or while traveling to or from a school or a school activity, function, or event. Further, bullying is prohibited off school grounds while using property or equipment provided by the school, or while attending a school activity, function, or event.

Principals are responsible for informing students, parents, teachers, and staff that bullying will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, suspension and expulsion. Further, principals are encouraged to engage students, staff, and parents in meaningful discussions about the negative aspects of bullying. The parent involvement may be through parent organizations already in place in each school.

Parents or students who suspect that bullying is taking place should report the matter to the principal. Upon receiving the report, the principal will investigate the matter at the building level and consequences will be assessed, as appropriate, consistent with the Board's policy entitled "Student Discipline".

Title IX Policy Forbidding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment of Students

Policy against sex discrimination

In accordance with applicable law, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Indiana Civil Rights Law, it is the policy of Indianapolis Public Schools that no student will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any education program or activity on the basis of sex. A student may not, on the basis of sex, be limited in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity, including courses, extracurricular activities, benefits, and facilities.

Prohibition against sexual harassment

The policy against sex discrimination includes a prohibition against sexual harassment. Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, sexual gestures, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is unwelcome and that limits or denies, on the basis of sex, a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program.

This policy prohibits sexual harassment by an employee or agent of IPS, by another student, and by third parties who come in contact with students at school or at school-related activities. This policy also prohibits any employee from being in a locked room with a student.

Title IX Coordinator

IPS' Title IX Coordinator, who is responsible for IPS' compliance with Title IX and directs the investigation of complaints, is Kim Kennedy, 120 E. Walnut St., Room 602B. Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 226-3870, kennedyk@myips.org

Making a Complaint

Parents and students are encouraged promptly to submit a complaint or provide information about suspected sex discrimination or harassment so that IPS can take appropriate action to resolve the situation. A parent or student should make the complaint orally or in writing to the building administrator, school counselor, school social worker, or directly to the Title IX Coordinator. A complaint should be made as soon as possible after the complained-of incident, preferably within ten days after the parent has been notified by a student of sex discrimination or

harassment. However, IPS accepts complaints after the ten-day filing period.

Investigation and Corrective Action

The Title IX Coordinator will promptly investigate, or direct the investigation of, complaints and reports of sex discrimination or harassment. The investigation will be completed in a timely manner. Depending on the nature and complexity of the issues, it should generally take no more than 30 days.

After the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will report the result to the Superintendent, including, where appropriate, making a recommendation for reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, and effective corrective action. The Superintendent may impose discipline up to and including a recommendation for employee termination or student expulsion. The Title IX Coordinator will advise the Complainant and the person accused of misconduct, in writing, whether or not the allegations were found to be substantiated.

The decision of the Superintendent is final unless an employee or student has a statutory right to challenge the Superintendent's recommendation for expulsion or termination or an employee has a collectively bargained right to challenge the imposition of discipline.

Guidelines

The Superintendent's administrative guidelines are available at BoardDocs at <http://www.board.ips.k12.in.us/index.php?id=4233>.

Secondary Schools Dress Code

A. Solid shirts/blouses in approved colors.... (collared Red, Black, White- Step Ahead)

Note: No T-shirts

Style

- Straight, button-down collar
- Turtleneck or mock turtleneck collar
- Cowl neck
- Long or short sleeves
- May be polo style
- No logo larger than 1"x 1 1/2" on the shirt other than approved school logo
- Shirt must be tucked into pants or shorts at all times

B. Undershirts

Solid colors: approved school shirt colors

- No visible camisoles or other attire considered by the principal to be "underwear"
- Long or short sleeves
- Must be tucked in at all times

C. Pants, shorts, skirts, capri- pants, "walking" length shorts

Solid colors: khaki, black or navy blue

Note: Solid navy blue or black shorts may be worn under a skirt provided they do not show. No denim/blue jeans allowed.

- Pleated or flat in the front
- Fastened at the waist
- Pants must be worn with a belt and set above the hip
- "Walking" length shorts, skorts, and jumpers limited to 2 inches above the knee

D. Sweaters/sweater vests/fleece jackets

Solid colors: approved school shirt colors

Note: No hoods allowed

- V-neck
- Crew neck
- Cardigan
- No logo larger than 1"x 1 1/2" other than approved school logo
- Must be worn over an approved collared shirt.
- Collar must extend over sweater/jacket neckline

E. Sweatshirts

Solid colors: approved school shirt colors

Note: No hoods allowed

- Must be worn over an approved collared shirt
- Collar must extend over sweatshirt

F. Shoes

Any color acceptable • Closed toes
• Closed heel or strap heel

G. Boots

Any color acceptable • Any style acceptable

H. Socks/Tights/Pantyhose/Leggings

Solid colors: approved school shirt colors

- No stripes, polka dots or other designs
- No fishnet

J. Accessories

Note: Handbags, purses, pocketbooks, fanny packs and similar items must be no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches (size of a regular sheet of notebook paper), 3 to 4 inches thick, and must not be large enough to contain a regular size textbook

- No clothing (such as shawls) to be worn over pants, skirts or shorts

K. No **PHONES** are allowed in classrooms/school- If out in class they will be confiscated

No student shall be considered non-compliant with the uniform dress policy in the following instances:

1. When a student wears a button, armband or other accessory to exercise the right to freedom of expression as provided by law, unless the button, armband or other accessory signifies or is related to: gangs, gang membership or gang activity; hate groups; lewd or profane expressions, symbols or signs; drugs and/or drug use; drinking or alcohol; derogatory statements or expressions; etc. The principal or his/her designee will make the official determination of the appropriateness of the button or other expression of speech.
2. When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization, such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts, on regular meeting days.
3. When a student wears the uniform of JROTC or other school military programs on the required uniform days.
4. When a student's parent or guardian has secured a waiver from the uniform policy by following the procedures for obtaining a waiver.

5. When a student is on campus outside of the normal school hours

RESTRICTED ATTIRE

The following articles of clothing or styles of dress are strictly forbidden while in IPS schools, or while attending athletic events or other school-sponsored activities during school hours:

- X No hats worn in building during the school day
- X No denim pants, shirts, shorts, skirts, skorts, capris, jumpers or jackets
- X No over-sized pants or shirts
- X No pants worn below the waist or “sagging”
- X No overalls or coveralls
- X No sweatpants/sweat suits, jogging pants/suits, warm-up pants/suits, athletic pants/shorts
- X No knit, nylon, spandex, biking or gym shorts or pants
- X No spandex, nylon or knit tightly fitted clothes
- X No skintight dresses or tops
- X No tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, mesh tops, midriff tops, spaghetti strap tops
- X No sleeveless tops
- X No shirts with ruffles
- X No shirts made of shiny materials
- X No t-shirts or tall tees
- X No hooded jackets, hooded sweaters, hooded shirts
- X No sunglasses
- X No pajama tops or bottoms
- X No thongs/slippers/sandals/bare feet/exposed toes
- X No “heelies” or “wheelies” (i.e. athletic shoes with skates)
- X No clothing or other item with offensive, lewd, vulgar, obscene or hate language, slogans or pictures
- X No coats worn in the school building during the regular school day unless principals waive the rule because of cold temperatures in the building.
- X No buttons, jewelry or other accessories containing lewd, vulgar, obscene, hate or offensive messages or pictures or which advocate or advertise the use of drugs or alcohol
- X No secret society, fraternity or sorority symbols or lettering
- X No hair rollers, combs, picks, or cosmetology clamps
- X No scarves, head rags, doo rags, bandanas, sweatbands, hats, caps or other head coverings

(Note: Approval for certain religious customs are permitted by approval of the school administration, i.e. Muslim female head

coverings, Jewish male head covering)

- X** No visible underpants, thongs, bras, camisoles or other clothing items considered by the principal to be undergarments.
- X** No clothing altered by cuts, slits or holes or that in any way exposes the skin
- X** No detachable gold teeth or fangs (unless required by a dentist with written documentation on file)
- X** No grills!

Anything else the principal or designee deems inappropriate or disruptive to the educational environment will be prohibited.

- **This document is fluid and is subject to change-due to district/state updates**

[NEW CELL PHONE POLICY 2026-2027SY](#)

Please click on the link above to review the Cell Phone Policy for Step Ahead Academy