

STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Dress Code Policy

School expectations and student support protocol

Purpose and Guiding Principles

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of a student rests primarily with the student and their parents or guardians. In the interest of maintaining an appropriate learning environment, the district believes in the following basic principles:

- * All students are encouraged to dress in a manner that is appropriate, comfortable and conducive to an active academic school day.
- * Students should be able to wear clothing without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- * The student dress code should serve to support all students to develop a body-positive self-image.
- * The district standard dress and appearance policy is gender neutral and applies to all students equally regardless of gender on school campuses and at school-sponsored functions and will be enforced consistently and fairly by all members of the school staff
- * Clothing and hair styles are a matter of personal choice (except for schools with uniforms). The school shall be concerned only when these impact the health and safety of students and staff.

Examples of inappropriate clothing include:

- clothing where the torso is exposed, i.e., tube tops, half shirts, halters
- clothing that is see-through. (clothing must be opaque)
- clothing or accessories which show profanity, obscene words or pictures, sexually suggestive statements, or incites to violence
- clothing representing gang-related activities to include but not limited to “Bulldogs” and Chicago Bulls.”
- clothing where the entire thigh is exposed, such as micro minis or short shorts.
- bathing suits or cut-offs
- the wearing and carrying of tobacco promotional items, or items promoting controlled substances (drugs) and/or alcohol to include but not limited to include “Cookies.”
- clothing where undergarments are exposed
- clothing that has text that is libelous, bullying, constitutes harassment or discrimination
- footwear must be worn at school and all functions
- Ski masks, or other head or face coverings that conceal a student’s identity are not permitted to be worn at school.
- Solid Red and Blue pants, shirts, shorts, dresses, skirts, hats, head coverings are not permitted.

*Students may wear McLane branded hats indoors and outdoors during the school day.

Exceptions and Activity-Specific Adjustments

Dress code expectations may be adjusted in the following circumstances:

- When students participate in extracurricular or other special school activities for which the standard dress and appearance policy would not be appropriate.
- When students participate in specific courses that require modifications to protect student safety, including laboratory sciences, Career Technical Education (CTE) classes, or other courses involving potential hazards.

Sun-Protective Clothing

Articles of sun-protective clothing, including hats, may be worn provided that they do not violate other provisions of the dress code. Clothing or hats determined by the district or school site to be gang-related or otherwise inappropriate may be prohibited under the school site's dress code policy.

Gang-Related Apparel

Gang-related apparel is not permitted. Designations of gang-related apparel are determined through ongoing collaboration with law enforcement agencies. The school will review and update these designations at the beginning of each semester or as often as needed.

Student Dress Code Support Protocol

Our goal is to address dress code concerns while minimizing disruptions to student learning. If a student's clothing does not meet school expectations, the following steps will be taken:

1. The student will be asked to change.
2. The student will be sent to AC 202 to resolve the dress code issue.
3. A parent or guardian may be contacted and asked to bring a change of clothing.
4. The student may return to class once the dress code issue has been resolved.
5. Student refusal to resolve the dress code issue or continued dress code issues may result in disciplinary measures.

We appreciate the cooperation of students and families in helping us maintain a safe and learning-focused school environment.