

Adopted: August 13, 1996
Revised: September 25, 2023

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 761
OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

504 STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and appearance that are related to educational settings.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. It is the policy of this school district to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- B. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Clothing appropriate for the weather.
 - 2. Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
 - 3. Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).
- C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, obscene, or disruptive.
 - 2. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.
 - 3. Objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing communicating a message that is racist, sexist, threatening, or otherwise derogatory.
 - 4. Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.
- D. Headgear, including hats or head coverings, are allowed in the building with the approval of the building principal or as defined by building handbooks.

- E. It is not the intention of this policy to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory or profane.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's appearance or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. Parents/guardians will be notified.
- B. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/guardians. A school district or charter school must not prohibit an American Indian student from wearing American Indian regalia, Tribal regalia, or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony. Specific dress expectations for the graduation ceremony are outlined in the respective student handbooks.
- C. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval.

Legal References: U.S. Const., amend. I
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969).
Stephenson v. Davenport Community School District, 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafon, 217 Fed.Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 2007)
B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist., 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)
Madrid v. Anthony, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)
Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist., 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)
Hicks v. Halifax County Board of Educ., 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D.N.C. 1999)
McIntire v. Bethel School, I.S.D. No. 3, 804 F. Supp. 1415, 78 Educ. L. Rep. 828 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
Olesen v. Board of Educ. Of Sch. Dist. No. 228, 676 F. Supp. 822 (N.D. Ill. 1987).

Cross References: Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
Policy 506 (Student Discipline)