Adopted: August 29, 1996 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 504
Orig. 1995
Revised: 11/15/1999, 8/25/2008, 4/28/2014, 12/17/2018, 10/24/2022, 8/24/2026 *Rev. 2023*

504 STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations that support educational goals. Students and their families have the primary and joint responsibility for student clothing and appearance. Teachers and other district staff should exemplify and reinforce student clothing and appearance standards and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school environment.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to encourage students to be dressed suitably [or appropriately] for school activities and in keeping with community standards.

B. A student's clothing or appearance may not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational mission, school environment, classwork, or school activities. A student's dress or appearance may not incite or contribute to substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others or pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others.

C. Students' rights to choose their dress and appearance for school and school-related activities will be protected provided that the clothing:

1. does not injure people or damage property;

2. does not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational process or classwork;

3. does not interfere with the requirements of discipline in the operation of the school or school activities, materially disrupt classwork;

4. does not involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others.

Such clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing for the weather.

2. Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.

3. Clothing for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).

4. Footwear that does not present a safety hazard.

D. The intention of this policy is not to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing clothing on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd; vulgar; obscene; libelous; do not denigrate, harass, or discriminate against others on the basis of protected class status under the Minnesota Human Rights Act; or do not

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violate school district policies prohibiting discrimination, bullying, violence, harassment, or other harmful activities.

Our schools are a place for the business of education; students' grooming and dress must be appropriate to the school setting. Clothing items or lack thereof that are deemed distracting to the educational process may not be worn. Your individual dress, personal appearance, and cleanliness should reflect sensitivity to and respect for others. The principal/administrative designee will have the final say on all inappropriate attire.

- Shorts, dresses, and skirts should be no shorter than the wearer's fingertips when arms are extended at the side.
- Shoes are required at all times. (tennis shoes or appropriately requested shoes for P.E. may be required.)
- Headwear is not to be worn in the building (includes hats, bandanas, stocking caps, or hoods) exceptions may be made at administrative discretion.
- Blankets are not to be "worn"/used during class time.
- Special safety equipment or protective clothing must be worn when required for the health and safety of students.
- Any clothing which is considered obscene, offensive, revealing, or has profanity will not be allowed.
- Any clothing that promotes nudity, pornography or represents the interpretation (examples include but not limited to Playboy, branding symbols).
- The wearing of armbands, buttons, or badges bearing slogans or sayings shall be permitted unless obscene according to current legal standard, libelous, or likely to create a clear and present danger because of the commission of lawful acts, or it disrupts the operation of the school.
- No clothing promoting drug/tobacco or alcohol-related information through pictures, words, or slogans.
- No face paint.
- No shoes, accessories, or apparel that would be damaging to school property.
- Headwear, backpacks, purses, jackets, and coats are to be left in the student's locker during the school day.
- Students may not wear clothing that exposes undergarments or is see-through.
- Crop tops will not be permitted.
- All shirts must cover all undergarments and must fully cover a student's mid-section, including stomach, back, sides of the body, and chest area.

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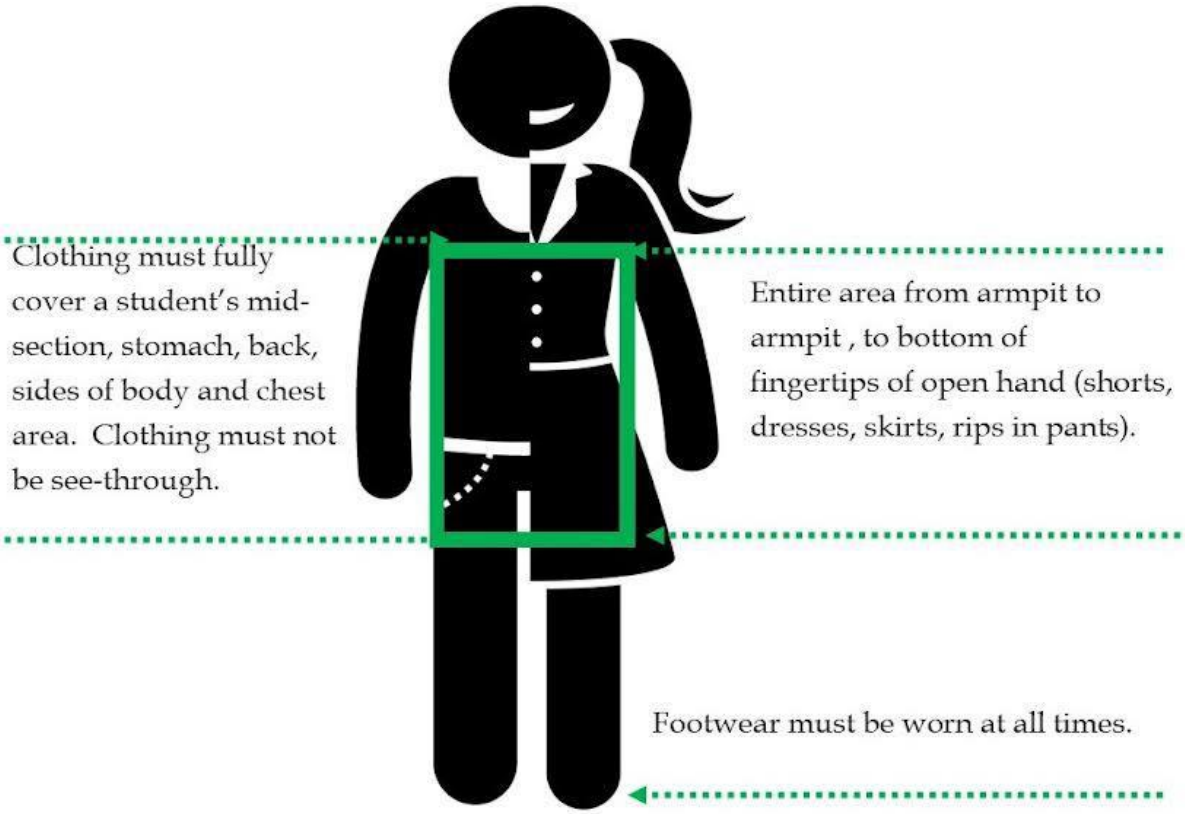
- Rips and tears in pants should extend no higher than the bottom of the wearer's fingertips when arms are extended to the sides.
- Student dress should be appropriate to reflect an educational environment.

Students in violation of the dress code will be offered a change in clothing from items on-hand. If a student refuses they will be offered to change into their own clothing they have on-hand in the building or sent home to change. Any refusal to obey the dress policy will be sent home and marked unexcused. If a student is a repeat offender of the dress policy they will be issued a detention and a parent, student, counselor, and administrative meeting will be scheduled.

Visual Graphic of an example of the dress code is provided below. Further detail of the dress code is listed below.



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III. PROCEDURES

A. Enforcement of a student dress code will be approached with careful consideration and sensitivity, with the goals of supporting students as they express themselves and pursue their full potential, of not shaming students, and of minimalizing loss of instructional time. When possible, dress code matters should be addressed privately with students, should seek to determine whether factors exist that impact the student's ability to comply with the dress code, and should seek to address such issues.

B. When, in the reasonable judgment of the administration, (1) a student's clothing or appearance may materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational mission, school environment, classwork, or school activities; (2) may incite or contribute to substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others; or (3) pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications. Parents or guardians will be notified. Other consequences may be enforced in line with Policy 506 (Student Discipline).

C. The administration may recommend a form of clothing considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents or 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.

D. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of clothing for students considered appropriate for a specific event and bring such recommendation to the administration for approval.

Legal References:
U. S. Const., amend. I
Minn. Stat. § 124D.792 (Graduation Ceremonies; Tribal Regalia and Objects of Cultural Significance)
Minn. Stat. § 363A.03, Subd. 36a (Definitions)
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969)
B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist., 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)
Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist., 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)
Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist., 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
B.H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist., 725 F.3d 293 (3rd Cir. 2013)
D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafon, 217 Fed. Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 2007)
Hardwick v. Heyward, 711 F.3d 426 (4th Cir. 2013)
Madrid v. Anthony, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)
McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3, 804 F.Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ., 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D. N.C. 1999)
Olesen v. Bd. of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228, 676 F.Supp. 820 (N.D. Ill. 1987)

Cross References:
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)

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