

ST. CROIX PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 504 Charter
Orig. 2022 (as Charter Policy)
Rev. 2026

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504 STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance student learning by establishing expectations that support educational goals. Students and their families share primary responsibility for students' clothing and appearance. Teachers and other charter school staff should exemplify and reinforce student dress and appearance standards and help students understand appropriate attire in the school environment.

The purpose of this policy is to establish student appearance and dress code guidelines for St. Croix Preparatory Academy ("St. Croix Prep").

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Dress Code and uniforms at St. Croix Prep build community and diminish the importance of external clothing-related factors. The Dress Code promotes professionalism, cultivates a focused learning environment, and prepares students for the future. Uniforms promote equality and unity among students and foster an inclusive environment where students can focus on their education rather than their appearance.

III. DRESS CODE

All St. Croix Prep students are expected to be in school uniform each day, except for the designated dress-up days or spirit wear days. Neatness, cleanliness, and modesty guidelines should be observed at all times. St. Croix Prep reserves the right to determine dress code violations.

Uniform Provider

Uniform clothing must be ordered through the approved providers listed in the family handbook (with the exception of shoes, socks, coats, and other accessories).

Families who are eligible for educational benefits are eligible to receive benefits for school uniforms. Please contact the main office.

Modesty Guidelines - These guidelines apply to all school dress

Modesty is appearance intended to avoid impropriety or indecency. It is recognized that there are varied opinions as to what constitutes modesty, therefore the following guidelines help define the expectations for St. Croix Prep students.

Inappropriate school attire will be considered a violation and will require correction. Parents may be contacted to assist in managing inappropriate school attire.

School Uniform Guidelines are outlined in the family handbook.

Dress Code Violations

Students and parents/guardians will be informed of dress code violations. Dress code violations will result in disciplinary actions, which vary by division (Lower, Middle or Upper School). Specific dress code violation consequences are listed in each division level handbook. Handbooks are posted on the school website (www.stcroixprep.org).

Opt-Out Provision

Parents or guardians may apply to the Division Principal for full or partial exemption from the dress code in the following situations:

- A student's disability or medical condition that would substantially interfere with a student's ability to comply with the dress code.
- A student's religious observation would be substantially hindered by compliance with the dress code.

Non-Uniform & Spirit Wear Days

Non-Uniform days will be scheduled throughout the course of the year. Students must demonstrate neatness, cleanliness, and modesty in their appearance on non-uniform days. Clothing on a non-uniform day should not distract from teaching and learning. St. Croix Prep reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of attire. Questions related to the appropriateness of a student's dress will be determined by the administration of St. Croix Prep.

Non-Uniform Day expectations are outlined in the family handbook.

Spirit Wear Guidelines

To enhance school spirit and build a closer community, St. Croix Prep will hold days when students may wear spirit wear instead of their uniform. Spirit wear days and expectations are denoted in the family handbook.

IV. 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 minimizing 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 a 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)