35.2 UPDATE - POLICIES - FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

po5511

Vol. 35, No. 2 - July 2026 Revised DRESS AND APPEARANCE

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5511 - **DRESS AND APPEARANCE**

The Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and appearance is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference and that students do possess certain individual rights, including the right to engage in expressive speech. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools.

Accordingly, the Board prohibits student dress, clothing, or appearance (Dress Code)practices that:

A. present a hazard to the health or safety of the individual student or to others in the school, including by way of communicating threats of harm or depictions of harmful conduct directed at others, including depictions that are reasonably likely to or are intended to incite violence against or hatred towards others;

B. materially interfere with school activities, or cause or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the educational environment; or

C. prevent students from achieving educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement

D. **(**X **)** violate the District's anti-harassment policies by depicting images or messages that represent or promote discrimination or harassment on the basis of one or more protected classifications;

E. **(**X **)** depict or promote obscenity, pornography, or otherwise depict or describe sexual activity.

The principal or designee shall serve as the initial arbiter of student dress, clothing, and appearance within the building or at school-sponsored events.

Dress, clothing or appearance constitutes expressive speech if the individual wearing or displaying the dress, clothing, or appearance intends to convey a particularized message

through the wearing or display and the likelihood was great threat the message would be understood by those who viewed it. This standard shall apply whether the message is conveyed by depiction, words, or a combination of the two. If the dress, clothing, or appearance does not constitute expressive speech, it can be regulated by school officials.

Expressive speech in the form of dress, clothing, or appearance will be regulated consistent with applicable legal principles.

A.

B.

C.

D.

Consistent with the legal parameters established under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

School officials can also regulate and prohibit dress, clothing, or appearance containing otherwise expressive speech if the dress, clothing, or appearance:

A. Can reasonably be viewed as promoting illegal drug use; or

B. Is vulgar, lewd, indecent, or plainly offensive.

Additionally, school officials can regulate dress, clothing or appearance if they can reasonably forecast that it will materially interfere with or substantially disrupt a school activity, such an interference or disruption actually occurs, or if the expression intrudes on the rights of other students. Such prohibited dress, clothing or appearance may include dress, clothing, or appearance that includes the use of discriminatory language including racial or ethnic slurs, or negative stereotypes, Under this standard, the wearing or display of the Confederate flag during the school day and on school property is prohibited.

In determining whether a student's dress or appearance materially interferes with schoolwork, creates disorder, or disrupts the educational program, school officials may consider the age and emotional maturity of the student audience, recent local or national events, and the unique characteristics of the school community. Decisions to restrict student dress or expression should be based on a reasonable forecast of material and substantial disruption, supported by specific facts and context, and should be documented accordingly.

No protected speech may be prohibited on the basis of disagreement by school officials with the specific point of view expressed if the topic is otherwise permitted by this policy (e.g. permitting depictions of support for one political party, but prohibiting depictions of support for the other).

The District administration may establish the dress, clothing or appearance requirements for members of the athletic teams, bands, and other school groups when representing the District at a public event or within the context of school-sponsored and controlled curriculum or activities. Where appropriate, a uniform or specific dress, clothing, or appearance requirement shall be used for students when representing the District as described.

Students who violate the foregoing rules will not be admitted to class and may be subject to additional consequences.

If the dress, clothing, or appearance cannot be removed or concealed, the student may be sent home after contact is made with the student's parent.

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