

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 grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. It is the policy of this school district to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). School administration will have the authority to judge what is appropriate and inappropriate in accordance with this policy.
- 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).
 - 4. Footwear that does not present a safety hazard
 - 5. Hair, including but not limited to hair texture and hair styles such as braids, locks, and twists.
- C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. No T-shirts and/or clothing containing alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco advertisements and/or any other type of inappropriate sayings. Staff and school administration will be the judge of what is acceptable for any other clothing that is deemed inappropriate.
 - 2. No T-shirts and/or clothing containing derogatory statements, sexual innuendoes, etc. will be allowed. Staff and school administration will be the judge of what is acceptable.
 - 3. No hats or hoods will be allowed to be worn in the school building during school hours. Hats should be placed in lockers upon entering the building. Hats are allowed during dress up weeks for homecoming, snow week etc.. Staff and administration will determine applicability in such cases, especially of a medical condition.

4. No bandanas, headgear or recreational sunglasses will be allowed to be worn in the school building during school hours.
5. Any clothing that allows undergarments to be visible is not allowed.
6. Shoes or sandals need to be worn in the building.
- .
- D. 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, profane or do not advocate violence or harassment against others.
- E. “Gang,” as defined in this policy, means any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. “Pattern of gang activity” means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. 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).
- B. 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.
- 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.

- 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 Cmty. Sch. Dist., 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
Harper v. Poway Unified Sch. Dist., 445 F.3d 1166 (9th Cir. 2006), *cert. granted and vacated as moot*, 127 S.Ct. 1484 (2007)
Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ., 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D.N.C. 1999)
McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. 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. 820, 44 Educ. L. Rep. 205 (N.D. Ill. 1987)
- Cross References:** Lakeview School District Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
Lakeview School District Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
Lakeview School District Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)