

**NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY**  
**MANUAL OF POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**NEW DRAFT POLICY 504:**  
**STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines for Nova Classical's student uniforms. Students and their families have the primary and joint responsibility for student clothing and appearance. Teachers and other Nova Classical 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**

Nova Classical Academy students are expected to be in uniform on a daily basis. (Administration may designate a limited number of non-uniform days.) The administration will develop uniform guidelines that specify which items are allowed for students at each stage. Teachers, with assistance from the administration, will enforce these guidelines.

- A. The policy of Nova Classical is to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities (e.g., wearing athletic clothing in Phy. Ed.) and in keeping with the uniform guidelines.
- 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:
  - a. follows the uniform guidelines or other directions for non-uniform days;
  - b. does not injure people or damage property;
  - c. does not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational process or classwork;
  - d. does not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the operation of the school;
  - e. does not involve substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others.
- D. Students are allowed to choose their hair appearance, including but not limited to hair texture and hair styles such as braids, locs, and twists. Some hair

accessories may be prohibited under uniform guidelines.

- E. Students may wear headgear for medical or religious reasons, provided that it does not cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable. Headgear must not interfere with the educational process.

On non-uniform days, with the permission of the administration, headgear may be worn, provided that it meets the above guidelines. In addition, hoodies must allow the face and ears to be visible from the front and sides and must not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff including while the student wearing the hoodie is seated.

### 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, 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. Additionally, when possible, the student will be directed to make modifications.
- 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. Nova Classical will 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

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 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009)

*Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist.*, 540 F.3d 752 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008)

*Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 110 F.3d 1303 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997)

*B.H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist.*, 725 F.3d 293 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir.

2013)  
*D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafon*, 217 Fed. Appx. 518 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2007)  
*Hardwick v. Heyward*, 711 F.3d 426 (4<sup>th</sup> 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)

*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 504 Orig. 1995*  
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