

# Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind (ARDB) Dress Code Policy

## Purpose

The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind believes that appropriate dress supports a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment. Clothing choices can affect student learning, classroom behavior, and safety. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines so students can make appropriate clothing choices while fostering respect for themselves and others.

## General Guidelines

### 1. Basic Principle

All students are expected to keep certain parts of the body covered at all times. Clothing must fully cover the abdomen, genitals, buttocks, and chest, with opaque fabric. This principle applies to all clothing, including shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, and shorts.

### 2. Required Clothing

Students are expected to wear the following while adhering to the Basic Principle:

- **Shirt:** Covers front and back to the bottoms worn and sides under the arms
- **Bottoms:** Must provide full coverage as outlined above. Shorts should be no less than a 5-inch inseam.
- **Shoes:** Safe footwear appropriate for school and physical activity, including closed-toe shoes for PE

### 3. Permitted Clothing

Students may also wear the following, provided it follows the Basic Principle:

- Religious or cultural headwear
- Hooded sweatshirts

- Hoods/hats may only be worn if identified in the student's IEP as an accommodation
- Fitted pants, leggings, yoga pants, or skinny jeans
- Ripped jeans, provided undergarments and buttocks are not exposed
- Athletic attire

#### 4. Prohibited Clothing

Students may not wear:

- Clothing with violent, profane, or pornographic language or images
- Clothing depicting drugs, alcohol, illegal activities, or other substances
- Clothing that creates a hostile or intimidating environment for any individual or group
- Clothing that reveals undergarments (waistbands and straps excluded)
- Swimsuits (unless required for PE, field trips, or extracurricular activities)
- Dangerous accessories or items that could be used as weapons
- Items that obscure the face or ears (except for religious purposes)
- Shoes with wheels or other unsafe features

### Extracurricular Activities

Staff overseeing extracurricular activities, including principals, coaches, and sponsors, may establish additional clothing requirements specific to the activity. Students who do not follow these standards may be excluded from the activity and may face additional consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### Dress Code Enforcement

To maintain a positive and safe learning environment, the dress code will be enforced consistently and fairly. Staff should address violations privately and respectfully. Students violating the dress code will be provided **three options**:

1. Wear alternative clothing already available at school
2. Be provided temporary school clothing
3. Parents may be contacted to provide appropriate clothing

### Key Enforcement Principles:

- Students will not be shamed, asked to expose their bodies, or corrected publicly.
- Enforcement will apply to all students the same.
- The goal is to help students comply with the dress code, not to punish or humiliate.

## Exceptions

Religious or cultural attire and medical/health needs are always allowed. Students attending other educational programs must follow that program's dress code in addition to ARDB's standards.

## Compliance

These guidelines apply to all school days, summer school, school events, field trips, graduation, dances, and prom. Students who fail to meet the dress code requirements may face disciplinary action.