

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:160 Student Appearance

The Board of Education recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. 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.

The District does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. [PRESSPlus1Q1](#) Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance.

Accordingly, the Superintendent or designee shall establish such grooming guidelines as are necessary to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. Such guidelines shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices which:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. Interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. Prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Such guidelines shall establish the dress requirements for members of the athletic teams, bands, and other school groups when representing the District at a public event.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy which:

- A. Designate the principal as the arbiter of student dress and grooming in his/her building;
- B. Instruct staff members to demonstrate, by example and precept, personal neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

Students who violate the foregoing rules will not be admitted to class and may be suspended from school.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS [5/2-3.25](#) and [5/10-22.25b](#).

[Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Sch. Dist.](#), [89 S.Ct. 733](#) [393 U.S. 503](#) (1969).

CROSS REF.: [7:10 \(Equal Educational Opportunities\)](#), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Questions and Answers:

[***Required Question 1.](#) If the board would like to expand upon the law’s requirement of race, ethnicity, or hair texture, IASB will amend this sentence as follows: “The District does not prohibit hairstyles or hair textures historically associated with historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, or any other protected classes under Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.”

Would the board would like to expand upon the law’s requirement of race, ethnicity, or hair texture?

- No (default)
- Yes.

PRESSPlus Comments

[PRESSPlus 1.](#) Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25b, amended by P.A. 102-360, eff. 1-1-22, for recognition under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25 (*Jett Hawkins Law*). For districts to receive recognition from the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), they must provide assurances of compliance with the *Jett Hawkins Law*. This policy's second sentence does that. ISBE will have resource materials on its website by 7-1-22. State or federal law also controls this policy’s content. **Issue 108, November 2021**