

## *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, 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, nor does it prohibit hairstyles historically associated with any other protected status under Board policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities.<sup>PRESSPlus1</sup> The District also does not prohibit the right of a student to wear or accessorize the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or other characteristic or category protected under the Ill. Human Rights Act, [775 ILCS 5/1-103\(Q\)](#). 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 Indep. Sch. Dist.](#), 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

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

### **PRESSPlus Comments**

[PRESSPlus 1](#). Updated for continuous improvement and to align with policy 7:165, *School Uniforms*. **Issue 117, October 2024**