

2016-2017 STUDENT DRESS CODE

The West Independent School District (ISD) is committed to providing an excellent educational opportunity for each student in the district. Efforts are made to ensure the highest standards of performance for all West ISD students and to promote a safe and secure environment.

The District's dress code is used to promote grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, help avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority. In addition, dress and grooming standards shall promote community values and good citizenship, enhance a safe orderly educational environment, and not infringe on any individual's religious beliefs or protected free speech.

The desire of the district is to present changes in a positive format; however, the most effective manner in which to explain the changes is to list the prohibited dress and/or grooming practices. The cooperation of parents and students and the consistent and fair enforcement of this policy by teachers and administrators are essential to the effectiveness of the dress code. **The campus principal has the final decision as to what constitutes appropriate school attire. The campus principal also has the discretion to determine the appropriateness of attire and grooming for religious and/or medical necessities.**

The Following Modes of Dress or Grooming Are Prohibited:

General

- Any aspect of a student's appearance or attire that is inappropriate for the school setting or likely to distract or disrupt the learning environment, including images or messages that are illegal, inappropriate, lewd, vulgar, sexually suggestive, containing profanity, or promoting violation of school rules (i.e., promoting drugs, tobacco use, alcohol, violence, gangs, death, sex, profanity, or hate).
- Holes or tears in jeans, pants, or shorts above fingertip length with arms in normal position (i.e. arms hanging naturally as student is standing straight and upright).

Shirts, Tops, and Blouses

- Sleeveless shirts or blouses that are not hemmed or have a shoulder width less than 2 inches.
- Spaghetti straps, halter tops, tank tops, tube tops, unbuttoned shirts and blouses, and overalls (unless worn over appropriate garments).
- Exposed midriff or cleavage.
- See-through clothing (e.g. thin or mesh; unless worn over appropriate garments).
- Backless tops.

Dresses, Skirts, Shorts, and Pants

- Dresses, shorts, skirts, or slits in skirts shorter than fingertip length with arms in normal

position (i.e. arms hanging naturally as student is standing straight and upright).

- Pants, shorts, and skirts worn below waist (i.e., “sagging” garments).
- Underwear as outerwear or exposed underwear or nightwear.
- Leggings, leotards, or hosiery worn with only a blouse, sweater, or dress that is shorter than fingertip length with arms in normal position (i.e. arms hanging naturally as student is standing straight and upright).
- Wind or running shorts without spandex/compression/bicycle shorts. *Again, all shorts, including spandex/compressions/bicycle shorts, above fingertip length with arms in normal position are prohibited.*
- Dresses, shorts, skirts, or pants that are not hemmed.

Outerwear

- Trench coats, dusters, and one-piece jump suits.

Accessories

- Jewelry, which displays sex, violence, drugs, tobacco, profanity, alcohol, death, or that promote hate and/or violence.
- Chains on clothing or wallets.
- Studs or earrings on male students (Female students may wear earrings in their ears. All other visible pierced jewelry is prohibited. Students may not wear band-aides, gages, plastic spacers, sticks, bars, etc. to conceal piercings.).
- Heavy or spiked jewelry (e.g., dog collars, spiked bracelets or belts, etc.).
- Visible tattoos deemed disruptive or inappropriate (must be covered at all times).

Footwear

- House shoes, bare feet, shoes with metal cleats, or shoes with wheels.

Grooming

- Sunglasses (except with a signed note from the school nurse).
- Sweatbands during the school day.
- Hats, caps, bandannas, hoods, or other head coverings inside the campus buildings.
- Hairstyles that are disruptive (e.g., spikes, Mohawks, etc.).
- Non-natural colored hair (e.g., green, blue, purple, orange, etc.).
- Beards or mustaches (Facial area must be clean shaven.).
- Hair covering the eyes.
- Hair longer than the shirt collar on male students.