

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Governing Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

(cf. 4119.22 – Dress and Grooming)
(cf. 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about dress and grooming standards at the beginning of the school year and whenever these standards are revised. A student who violates these standards shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

(cf. 5144 – Discipline)

Gang-Related Apparel

The principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing gang-related apparel when there is evidence of a gang presence that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school's activities. Such a dress code may be included as part of the school safety plan and must be presented to the Board for approval. The Board shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school's students.

(cf. 0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 5136 – Gangs)

Uniforms

In order to promote student safety and discourage theft, peer rivalry and/or gang activity, the principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code requiring students to wear uniforms. Such a dress code may be included as part of the school safety plan and must be presented to the Board for approval. The Board shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school's students.

The following guidelines shall apply to all K-8 schools:

1. That Navy, White, Light Blue and Khaki shall be adopted as the district's primary uniform colors for shirts/blouses.
2. That Navy or khaki shall be adopted as the district's primary uniform colors for pants, shorts, skirts or jumper.

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

3. That district personnel are not to endorse or require parents to purchase uniforms from any single vendor, company, or individual.
4. That all schools establish a process by which students will have access to recycled uniforms.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35183 School dress codes; uniforms

35294.1 School safety plans

48907 Student exercise of free expression

49066 Grades; effect of physical education class apparel

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

302 Pupils to be neat and clean on entering school

Hartzell v. Connell (1984) 35 Cal. 3d899

Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education, (1992) 2 Ca. 4th 351

Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al 827 F. Supp. 1459 (C.D. Cal. 1993)

DRESS AND GROOMING

In cooperation with teachers, students and parents/guardians, the principal or designee shall establish school rules governing student dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Governing Board policy and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

(cf. 0420 – School Plans/Site Councils)

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Shoes must have a firm sole. No flip flops, sandals, open-toe shoes, “chanclas,” slippers, or wheeled “Heelys” type shoes may be worn.
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
3. Hats, caps, beanies, hoods, bandanas, etc. are not allowed. Sun protective clothing may be worn outdoors provided the remaining criteria are met.
4. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops and low cut tops may not be worn. Bare midriffs may not be exposed.
5. Shorts, skirts and dresses must extend at least to the finger tips when standing normally with the hands hanging at the sides and the waist is no more than 1” below the belly button.
6. Hair styles or hair color that is disruptive to the educational process are not allowed.
7. All shirts are to have a collar. Jackets and hooded sweatshirts do not count as collars. Button down shirts must be buttoned.
8. Pants must fit and be worn at the waist. Otherwise they are considered excessively baggy or sagging too low. No holes, skin or underwear may show.
9. No hoops or dangling earrings.
10. No make-up, artificial or acrylic nails (elementary schools only).

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

Clothing and accessories may NOT be worn if they:

- are disruptive to the educational program
- are offensive
- contain obscene or inappropriate drawings or messages
- advertise or represent alcohol, drugs, tobacco or illegal substances
- Suggest gang affiliation. (socks pulled up to meet shorts, sports jerseys, logos, etc.)
- Identify a group of students for the purpose of harassing, threatening, or intimidating others.

Students who have not met the dress code requirements will be required to change clothing. Clothing will be returned only to the parent during non-instructional time as decided by the school site. After multiple infractions of the dress code, the principal or principal's designee may contact parents for a conference, and/or assign discipline including detention, community service, or suspension for defiance of the dress code policy.

Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

(cf. 3260 – Fees and Charges)

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

Gang-Related Apparel

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received.

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

Uniforms

In schools where a schoolwide uniform is required, the principal, staff and parents/guardians of the individual school shall jointly select the specific uniform to be worn. (Education Code 35183)

At least six months before a school uniform policy is implemented, the principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy. (Education Code 35183)

Parents/guardians shall also be informed of their right to have their child exempted.

The principal or designee shall also repeat this notification at the end of the school year so that parents/guardians are reminded before school clothes are likely to be purchased.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for determining student eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a method for recycling or exchanging uniforms as students grow out of them.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be allowed to wear organization uniforms on days when the organization has a scheduled meeting. (Education Code 35183)