

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Trustees 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 disruption, which would interfere with the educational process, as determined by school administration.

(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)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 32281 School safety plans
- 35183 School dress codes; uniforms
- 35183.5 Sun-protective clothing
- 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

COURT DECISIONS

- Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al, (C.D. Cal. 1993)
827 F.Supp. 1459
- Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education, (1992) 2 Cal. 4th 251
- Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

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, Board of Trustees policy and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day. (Education Code 35183.5)

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

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. Elementary students participating in recess and/or Physical Education must wear shoes with straps or backs; therefore no flip flops or backless shoes or sandals are acceptable for safety reasons. Secondary students must wear shoes at all times, may wear backless shoes except for Physical Education when PE shoes are required.
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or obscene, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
3. Head coverings for religious, cultural and/or health reasons are acceptable in class.
4. Student torso is to be covered at all times with clothing. No bare tops or bare midriffs. Exposed shoulders acceptable with (shoulder/halter) straps. No tube tops.
5. Hair should be free of any conditions that impose environmental or health issues to others.
6. Coaches and teachers may require appropriate attire based on student academic or sport activity.

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)

DRESS AND GROOMING (Continued)

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.

School administration will review and explain the dress code to students early in the school year. They will use this opportunity to teach acceptance and kindness towards others in students' choice of dress.

School administration reserves the right to determine dress code violations and may add additional regulation at their site as needed.

Staff may not discriminate by gender in relation to dress in sports activities and trainings.

Gang-Related Apparel

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus. (Education Code 32282)

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.