

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 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)

*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)

Clothing worn on campus must reflect good taste and a sense of modesty to enhance an atmosphere conducive to learning. One is attending school because one needs/wants to learn and eventually be employed. One's personal appearance may often affect this future goal. Consequently, the school has a responsibility to guide students in a positive direction for future employment. To fulfill this responsibility, some "common sense" rules must apply.

1. Clothing, jewelry with anti-ethnic, sexist, gang affiliation or hate/violence (satanic) or neo-Nazi designs or slogans or full-dress military fatigues are not allowed. Printing or pictures depicting drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or which display profane statements are not acceptable. Wearing such clothing may result in suspension, depending on the severity.
2. To prevent distraction, modesty shall prevail in student dress. At no time shall a student's private body parts or underclothing be exposed or seen.
 - Clothing that exposes the midsection is not allowed. (Midsection is defined as the area in the middle of the front, sides, and back of the torso.)
 - Shorts must have an inseam of at least a five in inseam.
 - Skirts (including those with slits) must cover the mid-thigh.
 - Cut-offs should not have holes or be torn and must follow appropriate length guidelines.
 - Tank tops with large armholes that extend past the armpit area, spandex-type pants, excessively torn clothing, boxer shorts and sleeveless undershirts worn as primary clothing, staples tops, backless tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, or transparent clothing are not permissible.
 - Shoulder straps must be two inches minimum in width.
 - Pants must be worn no lower than the hips.
3. Shoes must be worn on the school grounds at all times.
4. No spikes shall be worn on hats, clothing, or as jewelry except as a necklace with spikes no longer than 1/4 of an inch.

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

5. Dark glasses are outdoor attire and may not be worn in any classroom. Dark glasses may be worn before school, passing time, lunch, and after school.
6. The district prohibits the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute that represents affiliation in gangs, or which advocates drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior.

The dress code is not a punishment, but rather a tool to ensure that education can take place. By using common sense and good taste, students will avoid and problems.

Recommended Consequences for Dress Code Violations

Notwithstanding the above recommendations, the school principal/designee shall have discretion to impose whatever punishment he/she deems appropriate.

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| • 1st violation | Warning/Attire Altered |
| • 2nd violation | 1 hour Detention/Attire Altered |
| • 3rd violation | Suspension/Saturday School |

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

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)

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

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.