

## **Student Dress Code—**

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The Board of Education believes that:

- \*All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- \*An individual students' clothing/self-expression should not be regulated based upon another student or staff member's personal perspective or discomfort.
- \*Staff can focus on their jobs without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.
- \*Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- \*Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline should be minimized whenever possible.

There are many purposes for policy governing student dress. The most important purposes include:

- \*Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
- \*Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- \*Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- \*Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- \*Prevent students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- \*Prevent students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language depicting or advocating violence or the use of alcohol or drugs.
- \*Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, and personal style.

The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and parents or guardians. The school district and individual schools are responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, and that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about the dress code at the beginning of the school year and whenever these standards are revised. The dress code should be clearly communicated, not just in the student handbook, but in other ways including, but not limited to, annual instruction, posters, and newsletters.

A student who violates the dress code shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## **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.

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~~([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.

### **Uniforms**

In order to promote student safety and discourage theft, peer rivalry and/or gang activity, a school may establish a reasonable dress code requiring students to wear 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~~ [35183](#)). 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.

If a school's plan to require uniforms is adopted, the Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures whereby parents/guardians may choose to have their children exempted from the school uniform policy. Students shall not be penalized academically, otherwise discriminated against or denied attendance to school if their parents/guardians so decide. (~~Education Code 35183~~ [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~~)

This notice shall also inform parents/guardians 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 ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms including:

- \*-Establishing criteria for determining eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms
- \*-   Establishing 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~~)

~~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~~

~~Policy ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT~~

~~adopted: August 25, 2009 Alameda, California~~

~~revised: July 6, 2018~~

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