

## 504 Student Dress And Appearance

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards.

### II. General Statement of Policy

- A. The policy of the school district is to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- B. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Clothing appropriate for the weather
  - b. Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e. physical education or the classroom).
- C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but it not limited to the following:
  - a. Short shorts, skinny tank tops, tops that expose the midriff, and other clothing that is not in keeping with the community standards.
  - b. Clothing bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar or obscene
  - c. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for the use of minors
  - d. Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry communication a message that is racist, sexist or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affliction or approves, advances or provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in MSBA.MASA Model Policy 413.
  - e. Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property
- D. Hats are not allowed in the building except with the approval of the building principal (i.e. student undergoing chemotherapy, medical situations).
- E. It is not the intention of this policy to abridge the rights of the students to express political, religious, philosophical or similar opinions but wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane or do not advocate violence or harassment against others.

- F. "Gang" as defined by this policy, means any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commissions of one or more criminal acts, which as an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. "Pattern of gang activity" means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of to belong to the same criminal street gang.

### III. Procedures

- A. When, in judgment of the administration, a student's appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the students to others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. Parents/guardians will be notified.
- B. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for the specific event and communicate the recommendation to the students and parents/guardians.
- C. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval

#### Legal References: U. S. Const., amend. I

- Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)  
*Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)  
*D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafen*, 217 Fed.Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 2007)  
*B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist.*, 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)  
*Madrid v. Anthony*, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)  
*Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist.*, 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)  
*Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ.*, 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D. N.C. 1999)  
*McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3*, 804 F.Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)  
*Olesen v. Bd. of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228*, 676 F.Supp. 820, 44 Educ. L.Rep. 205 (N.D. Ill. 1987)

- Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)