

## **DRESS AND GROOMING (All Grade Levels)**

A dress code is intended to: (1) Foster healthy standards of student grooming and hygiene; (2) create and maintain a respectful and positive learning environment; (3) prevent the disruption, interference with, or detraction from the educational environment and school activities; and (4) minimize health and safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards provided they comply with the following District guidelines. Students are required to use good judgment, to respect themselves and others, and to demonstrate modesty in selecting an attire. Further, students are expected to comply with the Texas Governor's most recent order relating to the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 disaster. Face masks or face shields are considered part of their attire, and are required when social distancing is not feasible, except when developmentally inappropriate. Students should wear garments, shoes, jewelry, accessories, and hairstyles that are appropriate and modest in length and coverage. Whether in classrooms, on school grounds, or serving as representatives of the district during activities and/or competitions, clothing:

- Should reflect a positive image of the school and contribute to a distraction-free learning environment;
- Should lead teachers and/or staff to reasonably believe that the issue does not interfere with, disturb, or distract from the classroom and/or learning environment;
- Below the waist should not be excessively tight, loose, cut, baggy or have revealing tears; sagging is prohibited; and
- Above the waist should not be excessively tight, revealing, backless, or low cut.

Clothing and face coverings displaying advertisements, emblems, patches, pictures, slogans, and writing on clothing and face coverings and/or other personal items that are lewd, obscene, offensive, suggestive, vulgar, gang-related, or promote violence are prohibited. Clothing and face coverings that advertise or depict alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, drugs, or other prohibited substances are prohibited.

**NOTE:** This dress code provides guidance regarding common situations but cannot cover every style of dress and specific situations that may arise. The items outlined in the Dress Code are not all-inclusive; because of that, there may be times when clothing or accessories do not specifically breach the code yet may be inappropriate for school. The District reserves the right to prohibit any clothing or grooming style that the administration determines to be reasonably expected to pose a health or safety hazard or to cause substantial disruption of, a distraction from, or interference with general school operations. Extracurricular programs may have additional requirements or guidelines for students participating in those programs.

### ***See specifics below:***

**FOOTWEAR:** Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.

**HAIR / FACIAL HAIR:** Hair / facial hair must be clean, well-groomed and not pose a distraction. Hairstyles or designs that are disruptive or distracting to the school environment are prohibited (*i.e.* mohawks, rattails, patterns or shavings in the hair, or spikes). Color that is disruptive or distracting to the school environment is prohibited (*i.e.* colors other than natural hair colors).

**TATTOOS / BRANDS:** All tattoos and brands must be covered at all times.

**OUTERWEAR:** Trench coats are prohibited.

**SHIRTS:** Shirts must be worn at all times while in the classroom, on school grounds, or at school-related or school-sponsored events. Shirts and dress tops must have straps and must be worn on the shoulders. Undergarments should not be visible. Midsection may not be exposed. Excessively large armholes are prohibited.

**LENGTH OF CLOTHING:** Shorts, skirts, skorts, or dresses must reach mid-thigh range or longer. Shorts of any style must have at least a 4 inch inseam. The same standard applies to slits or slashes in shorts, skirts or dresses. A shirt worn over leggings must meet length requirements for dresses.

If the principal or designee determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If the student refuses to make appropriate corrections, the student's parent/guardian will be contacted for assistance. If both the student and parent/guardian refuse, the student will be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected. Repeated violations of the dress code will result in more serious disciplinary action. In all cases, appropriate disciplinary action will be administered in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct.