

**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 Superintendent, staff, and parents/guardians 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)*

**Uniforms**

In order to promote student safety and discourage theft, peer rivalry and/or gang activity, the Superintendent, staff and parents/guardians may establish a reasonable dress code requiring students to wear uniforms. 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 the 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)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**DRESS AND GROOMING** (continued)

*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**

Students are expected to attend school in clean, neat clothing. It is the mission of the school district not only to provide academic education but also to provide education in morals, manners, dress and grooming because these are elements of good citizenship. Research has shown that student dress and appearance affect student attitudes and conduct. These guidelines are intended to define "appropriate student attire" and personal grooming. Their purpose is to prevent disruption of the classroom atmosphere, enhance classroom decorum, eliminate disturbances among other students in attendance and minimize distraction of other students so as not to interfere with the educational process. It is also intended to help protect the health and welfare of the individual student.

All students shall abide by the following:

1. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Aerosol cans of hair color are not permitted at school. Hair may not be sprayed with any coloring. Dyeing hair in a manner that may create a distraction is not acceptable.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times. For safety purposes sandals must have back straps. Thongs are not permitted.
3. Commercial lettering or printing will be allowed on shirts and sweatshirts as long as it is acceptable for school attire. Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive, or which advocate negative racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice, or use of glorification of drugs or alcohol.
4. Hats, caps and other types of head covering shall not be worn inside buildings. Hats are not to be worn backwards.
5. Sunglasses are approved for campus wear, but not for the classroom.
6. All clothing shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school. Garments shall be sufficient to conceal under-garments at all times.
  - a. Dress length shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste and not shorter than mid-thigh.
  - b. Shorts may not be shorter than mid-thigh.
  - c. Shorts, pants, skirts shall have no writing across the seat area.
  - d. T-shirts and polo type shirts that are not tucked-in shall not extend below the pockets of pants or shorts. All other shirts should be worn with tails tucked-in.

**DRESS AND GROOMING** (continued)

- e. No bare midriffs. As a test for appropriate length, have the student raise their arms above their head. If this reveals a bare midriff then the top is too short. No low-cut or revealing tops. No "off the shoulder" blouses. Tube tops, spaghetti strap tops, tank tops with narrow straps (all straps must be two inches or greater), halter tops and/or any strapless top or dress which reveal the midriff or breast are neither acceptable nor permitted. No under shirts shall be worn as outerwear.
- f. No "see through" or "fish net" type of blouse or shirt may be worn. Boys must wear shirts at all times.
- g. Ornamentation or jewelry, which pose a safety hazard, shall not be worn. This includes but not limited to, studded cuffs, hanging chains, bandanas, and sweatbands. Students shall not wear jewelry in pierced tongues, faces, or body parts other than ears.
- i. Makeup should not be brought to school and should be applied at home.

**Wearing of Shorts**

Students will be allowed to wear Bermuda shorts, walking shorts or shorts of this type within the following guidelines:

1. Shorts must be hemmed and straight legged.
2. The length of the shorts must be within the bounds of decency and in good taste as appropriate for school. If the shorts have slits or notches, tops of the slits or notches cannot be above mid-length. Wrap and/or thin nylon "see through" shorts are neither acceptable nor permitted. Shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh and must be worn at the waist. Saggy shorts or shorts with length below the knee are not allowed.
3. Short shorts, or gym shorts, are absolutely not to be worn in school in classrooms other than P.E.

Shorts, which do not meet this criteria, are not allowed. Tops worn with shorts must adhere to the guidelines above.

**Long Pants**

Long pants are allowed for both girls and boys. The fullness must not interfere with the normal school activities and they must be clean and neat at all times. Students wearing overalls or other bib-type attire must have the straps buttoned appropriately and wear an acceptable shirt or blouse underneath. All long pants must be the proper waist size, length, and leg size:

**DRESS AND GROOMING** (continued)

1. The pants waist size must not be more than one inch bigger than the correctly measured student waist size. Pants cannot be gathered or drawn together at the waist and must not hang below the waist.
2. To check if the pants are oversized in the leg, take a measuring tape and pull the pants tight at the calf muscle. If the excess pants material that can be gathered up measures five (5) inches or more they are too big and are not acceptable for school.
3. Pant inseams must be appropriately sized for the student. Pant length should not touch or drag on the ground.
4. Belts must not be more than three (3) inches longer than the students measured waist size.

**Gang Symbols and Gang Related Apparel**

The Governing Board desires to keep district schools and students free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate drug use or disruptive behavior. "Gang Related Apparel" is defined in Education. Code Section 35183 as apparel that, if worn or displayed on a school campus, reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment. The Administration, therefore, prohibits the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in such a group. (i.e., wearing or possession of chains, rags, bandannas, stocking caps, long belts, baggy/oversized pants, cut off or saggy pants, pants worn very low below the waist, etc.)

Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang membership shall be referred to the principal or vice principal.

Disciplinary problems shall be handled as individual problems and not labeled as gang problems.

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Regulation  
approved:

**McCABE UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
El Centro, California