

Student Dress Code (Policy 525)

The Board believes inappropriate student appearance causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirements of a good learning environment. The standards will be those generally acceptable to the community as appropriate in a school setting.

The Board expects students to be clean and well groomed and wear clothes in good repair and appropriate for the time, place and occasion. Clothing or other apparel promoting products illegal for use by minors and clothing displaying obscene material, profanity or reference to prohibited conduct are disallowed. While the primary responsibility for personal appearance lies with the students and their parents, appearance disruptive to the education program will not be tolerated. When, in the judgment of a District administrator, a student's personal appearance disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent in conjunction with the principals to develop, update and maintain administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Student Dress Code Guidelines (Administrative Regulation 525.1)

When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications. Modifications could also need to be made to items that are not listed. Principals may approve religious and medical exceptions.

1. Midriffs will not be exposed while standing.
2. No cleavage will be exposed in the front area or in the lower back area.
3. No garments, tattoos, accessories or other items will be allowed that advertise or promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang activity*, violence or illegal activity. There will be no sexually suggestive, lewd, profane or obscene language or images on garments, tattoos, accessories or other items.
4. Skirts, skorts, and shorts must extend to mid-thigh when standing.
5. Undergarments and parts of undergarments are to be covered at all times.
6. Footwear is to be worn at all times. Footwear should be appropriate to classroom activity. Slippers are not acceptable.
7. Bandanas, hats, sweatbands, hoods or other headwear may not be worn at any time in the building.
8. Billfold chains, spiked wristband, cleated shoes, jewelry with razor blades, metal hair picks/combs or any other similar articles of clothing or accessories that are a hazard to safety or may damage school property may not be worn in school.
9. The areas between the neckline and outer shoulders shall be fully covered by fabric. Spaghetti straps, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, including sleeveless undershirts and muscle shirts that do not cover the shoulder area, are not acceptable unless worn with an outer shirt that does cover the shoulder area.

10. Sheer, see through clothing and clothing that exposes the sides of the torso are prohibited.
11. Activity uniforms must follow these guidelines during the school day.
12. Exceptions may be made to this code for administratively sanctioned events.

*A gang is defined as “any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. The ‘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 separate dates or by two or more persons who are member of, or belong to, the same criminal street gang.”

Student Dress Code Interventions

- Step 1: Student conference and modification of clothing. *
- Step 2: Student conference, modification of clothing and parent contact by an administrator.
- Step 3: Parent and student conference with an administrator and modification of clothing.
- Step 4: Parent and student conference with an administrator and modification of clothing. Eligible for administrative actions such as before and after school detentions, lunch detentions, or other school based sanctions. Step 4 may be repeated as deemed appropriate by the building administrator. **
- Step 5: To be classified as a Code of Conduct violation; Level 3 G. Failure to abide by corrective measures used by school personnel. Eligible for suspension as deemed appropriate by the building administrator with due process as required.

* The term “modification of clothing” can include, but is not limited to a range of actions such as turning a shirt inside out, removal of inappropriate jewelry, covering of an inappropriate tattoo, wearing a belt, changing clothing or having a parent bring clothing.

** The term “as deemed appropriate by the building administrator” is intended as guidance to a building administrator to take into account factors such as age of the student, the severity of the violation, the level of disruption or other factors relevant to the administrators decision.

Revised by Board of Education: May 23, 2006

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2003)