

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

The Board of Trustees believes that appropriate dress and appearance 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.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about dress and appearance standards at the beginning of the school year and whenever these standards are revised. A student who violates these standards shall be subject to informal student-teacher conferences, alternative means of correction, or formal appropriate disciplinary action depending on the circumstances. Enforcement of these standards shall be done fairly, consistently, equally, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

Students shall not be prohibited from dressing in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression or with their religious or cultural observance.

In addition, the dress code shall not discriminate against students based on hair texture and protective hairstyles, including, but not limited to, braids, locks, and twists. (Education Code 212.1)

The principal or designee is authorized to enforce this policy and shall inform any student who does not reasonably conform to the dress code. The dress code shall not be enforced in a manner that discriminates against a particular viewpoint or results in a disproportionate application of the dress code based on students' gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, household income, or body type or size.

School administrators, teachers, and other staff shall be notified of appropriate and equitable enforcement of the dress code.

When practical, students shall not be directed to correct a dress code violation during instructional time or in front of other students.

Repeated violations or refusal to comply with the district's dress code may result in disciplinary action.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

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

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proposed dress code shall be presented to the Board, which shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school. The dress code policy may be included in the school’s comprehensive plan. (Education Code 31583)

Uniforms

In order to promote student safety and discourage theft, peer rivalry and/or gang activity, the principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school 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 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)

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

- (cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Program and Activities)
- (cf. 0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan)
- (cf. 5131 – Conduct)
- (cf. 5136 – Gangs)
- (cf. 5144 – Discipline)
- (cf. 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35183 School dress codes; uniforms

32281 School safety plans

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

Hartzell v. Connell (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education, (1992) 2 Cal. 4th 251

Salinas Union High School District

Students

Policy #5132

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Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al 827 F.Supp. 1459 (C.D. Cal. 1993)

Adopted: November 24, 1981

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