

STUDENT DRESS

The Governing Board 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.

The following guidelines, consistent with the law, are hereby established as a dress code policy. This policy prohibits the wearing of or displaying of clothing, attire, jewelry, colors, or other materials/items that:

- a) indicate possible/probable membership in, or affiliation with, any formal/informal gang/group that could be associated with causing harm to self and others and exists on and/or off campus;
- b) are obscene, sexually explicit, suggestive or provocative;
- c) are intimidating or inflammatory toward other students, races, ethnicities, or religions;
- d) promote the use/abuse of drugs, alcohol, illegal actions, or violence;
- e) incite others and/or cause a disruption to school activities.

It is recognized that sometimes a clothing item or accessory in and of itself does not present a problem for safety, decency, and/or non-distraction, but the "total look" must meet the same standards.

In recognition of the instructional responsibilities and goals of the Monrovia Unified School District, the Board hereby adopts and strictly enforces the following rules related to the dress and appearance of students:

1. All elementary schools shall follow the district uniform policy.

Specific hats and headgear which are not prohibited by this policy may be authorized by site administration. Hats, baseball-type caps or other headgear/coverings shall not be worn indoors, but may be worn on campus or at school activities only if such headgear is school affiliated and/or approved by the school administration. Additionally, medically or religiously required headgear may be worn as necessary.

2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, notebooks, etc.) shall be free of writing or pictures which depict or suggest sexually-related or obscene gestures, promote the use/abuse of drugs, violence, alcohol or other illegal actions which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice at school activities.
3. Clothing, jewelry or accessories shall be worn on campus or at school activities only if, in the opinion of the school administration, these items do not incite, intimidate or pose a threat to the physical well being and safety of the student or others.
4. Clothing (including pants, shirts, gloves, bandannas, shoes, shoestrings, wristbands, jewelry, etc.) and the manner (must be of proper size and worn appropriately) in which it is worn shall not indicate any relationship to a formal/informal gang/group that could be associated with causing harm to self on and/or off our campuses. Clothing shall not provoke others to act violently, incite or intimidate others by fear of violence.
5. Clothing and the manner in which it is worn, including appropriate size and fit, shall be sufficient to prevent distractions and disruptions to the educational program.

Prohibited gang/group related clothing may vary from school to school and may change from year to year. The procedures outlined in Administrative Regulation 5132 shall be strictly followed for those students who violate the dress code policy. The prohibitions outlined in this policy may be enforced by administration, according to current need.

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.

Gang-Related Apparel

For reasons of safety, the principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing gang-related apparel. Such a dress code may be included as part of the school safety plan.

Student Uniforms

The Board of Education supports school efforts to improve and maintain the health, safety, and security of their campuses and supports individual school principals, staff, and parents in initiating plans for school student uniforms and implementing a school

student uniform plan upon a two-thirds vote of approval from school parents, according to the guidelines prescribed in Administrative Regulations 5132.1.

School student uniform plans shall include the following provisions:

1. The uniform shall be selected by the principal, staff, students, and parents of the school.
2. The uniform shall conform to the provisions of the student dress code presented in Board Policy 5132.
3. The uniform guidelines adopted by a school shall be sufficiently specific to provide clear, understandable expectations for student uniform dress, and still allow parent flexibility in purchase location or in home sewing construction of the uniform.
4. Parents shall be given six months' notice prior to implementation of the school student uniform plan.
5. Parents may apply for an exemption from the adopted school uniform plan. No pupil shall be penalized academically, discriminated against, or denied attendance to school if the pupil's parents have obtained an exemption.
6. Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be permitted to wear organization uniforms on days that the organization has scheduled meetings.
7. Parents shall be informed of the availability of other resources, including financial aid, if needed and the procedures for requesting such assistance.

Each school shall develop activities to encourage full compliance with the uniform policy.

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