

# CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATION

R-5131

## DRESS AND APPEARANCE

### I. Community Standards

The Clark County School District reserves the right to promote that the dress and grooming of students are within the limits of generally accepted community standards. Students shall be required to show proper attention to personal cleanliness. Students have a responsibility to dress in alignment with the Clark County School District dress and appearance guidelines.

### II. Educational Environment Standards

Student's dress, personal appearance, and conduct are required to be of such character as not to disrupt or detract from the educational environment of the school. Any style which tends to diminish instructional effectiveness or discipline control by teachers is not acceptable.

### III. Responsibility

The school administration shall have the right to designate which types of dress, fashion, fads, or appearance disrupt or detract from the educational program and may be a potential safety hazard. The principal shall retain the authority to grant exceptions for spirit days, special event dress days, and schoolwide free dress days. On those CCSD/school sanctioned exception days, schools will notify the students and parents/guardians of the unique dress provisions.

### IV. Basic Dress Code

The Clark County School District Basic Dress Code serves to provide guidelines for student dress and appearance at all District schools (whether or not they adopt Standard Student Attire). Students are to be dressed in such a manner that their appearance in the school contributes to the learning environment. Exemption from the CCSD Basic Dress Code may be permitted for medical or religious reasons.

#### A. Information and Basic Dress Code Provisions

Handbooks, school Web sites, and/or newsletters prepared at each organizational level (elementary, junior high, or senior high) shall express uniformity on specific requirements and prohibitions. Each school will be responsible for in-service activities to familiarize students and staff with

the enforcement procedures of these requirements. Notifications of dress code changes occurring during the school year shall be sent promptly to parents. Statements which incorporate the following provisions for the Basic Dress Code shall be included in the notifications:

1. Require the wearing of shoes with soles. House slippers and shoes with wheels are not permitted.
2. All clothing must be sufficient to conceal any and all undergarments. No skin will show between bottom of shirt/blouse and top of pants or skirts at any time. All sleeveless shirts must have straps at least three inches wide. Prohibited tops include, but are not limited to, crop tops, tank tops, strapless, low-cut clothing, clothing with slits, or tops and outfits that provide minimum coverage.
3. Require that all shorts, skorts, skirts, and jumpers/dresses must be at fingertip length.
4. All jeans, pants, and trousers must be secured at waist level. Sagging is strictly prohibited. Jeans, pants, and trousers are not to have rips or tears that expose undergarments and/or are located mid-thigh or higher.
5. Headgear (hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, hair grooming aids, etc.) is not permitted on campus except for designated school approved uniforms, special events, authorized athletic practices, documented medical conditions, bona fide religious reasons, or CCSD/school sanctioned activities.
6. Slogans or advertising on clothing, jewelry, buttons, and/or accessories which by their controversial, discriminatory, profane, and/or obscene nature disrupt the educational setting are prohibited.
7. Any clothing, jewelry, buttons, and/or accessories that promote illegal or violent conduct, or affiliation with groups that promote illegal or violent conduct such as, but not limited to, the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia, or clothing that contains threats are prohibited.
8. Spiked or studded clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories are prohibited.
9. Outerwear such as coats, mittens, and scarves must be removed upon entering the classrooms/buildings. Administrators, teachers,

and staff may use their discretion as appropriate based on the temperature in the facility.

10. The Basic Dress Code provisions [Section IV(A)(1-9)], and if adopted by the school, Standard Student Attire provisions [Section V(D)], shall be included in the student/parent notifications.

#### V. Standard Student Attire

Standard Student Attire provides an option for those communities that would like to have students wear Standard Student Attire for the purposes of increasing student achievement, promoting safety, and enhancing a positive school climate. Exemption from the Standard Student Attire may be permitted for medical or religious reasons [Section V(G)(4)(b)].

- A. With the consent of the Associate Superintendent/designee, principals may establish a policy that requires pupils to wear Standard Student Attire. Each school that chooses to participate will separately determine appropriate attire, programs for financial assistance, and work with members of the school community to ensure community involvement. The implementation of a Standard Student Attire policy at a specific school site must adhere to the parameters as set forth by this regulation.
  1. A school that chooses to implement a Standard Student Attire policy must conduct a survey of families. At least ten (10) percent of the surveys sent to the families that make up the population of the student body must be returned and fifty-five (55) percent of the surveys returned must agree to implement the Standard Student Attire policy. The survey shall be designed, administered, and reported centrally through the Division of Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement.
  2. The survey shall pose the sole question as to whether the parent(s) support the school adopting a school Standard Student Attire policy. Pro and con statements and a description of required Standard Student Attire will be included on the survey.
  3. Schools will survey their community every fourth year. The surveys will be administered by the Division of Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement.
  4. Parents of students who do not desire to attend a Standard Student Attire school may request a zone variance under the provisions of CCSD Regulation 5112. Zone variances may be granted based on the provisions of CCSD Regulation 5112. It is not necessary to

wait until the survey process is complete to request a zone variance.

- B. With the approval of the Associate Superintendent/designee, a school may implement a voluntary Standard Student Attire policy without going through the survey process if students/parents are provided a non-participation option. The non-participation option may be exercised by parents submitting a written, signed Application for Exemption, and discussing the option with the principal or designee. The school shall determine Standard Student Attire clothing requirements from the list set forth in Section V(D). Notification of the final decision to implement a voluntary Standard Student Attire policy (for the following school year) will be sent to families that make up the population of the student body via U.S. Mail and postmarked no later than May 31 of the current school year.
- C. The principal and the site-based committee consisting of students, parents, staff, and administrators shall determine Standard Student Attire requirements from the following list. The committee shall consist of an odd number of members with a minimum of eleven (11) members. The committee membership shall have six (6) parents, two (2) teachers/staff, two (2) students, and one (1) administrator. Stricter Standard Student Attire requirements than those delineated below may be implemented through the committee-based survey process as set forth in Section VI.
- D. Basic colors of khaki, navy, and white will be required at all Standard Student Attire schools. Optional colors may be added based on the Standard Student Attire Committee's input. In addition, depending on the committee's selections, the final surveys may not necessarily include all the options listed below.

MALES

pants/shorts in basic/optional colors (sized to fit)

denim pants in basic/optional colors (sized to fit)

sweaters in basic/optional colors worn over approved shirts

sweatshirts/sweatpants in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo)

shirts in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo, long- or

FEMALES

pants/shorts in basic/optional colors (sized to fit)

denim pants in basic/optional colors (sized to fit)

sweaters in basic/optional colors worn over approved shirts

sweatshirts/sweatpants in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo)

shirts in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo, long- or

MALES

short-sleeved, with or without collar)

ties in basic/optional colors

FEMALES

short-sleeved, with or without collar)

skirts or skorts in basic/optional colors

jumpers/dresses in basic/optional colors

blouses in basic/optional colors (plain or school logo, long- or short-sleeved)

tights/leggings in basic/optional colors worn under clothing (solids or patterns)

The school logo may only include the school name and/or school mascot. No other names or symbols related to school athletic teams, school clubs/activities, charitable organizations, or similar groups/organizations should be on the clothing.

Colors and styles of outerwear, such as jackets and coats, are not required to meet the color/style specifications of Standard Student Attire.

- E. All jeans, pants, and trousers must be secured at waist level. Sagging is strictly prohibited. Jeans, pants, and trousers are not to have rips or tears that expose undergarments and/or are located mid-thigh or higher.

F. Special Occasions at Schools Implementing Standard Student Attire

On those CCSD/school sanctioned exception days, schools will notify the students and parents of the unique dress provisions.

G. Compliance Measures

1. All students enrolled in site-specific schools that have determined to implement a Standard Student Attire policy are required to wear the adopted school attire. Additionally, all Standard Student Attire violations will result in disciplinary action in alignment with school-based progressive discipline plan.
2. Each school shall develop positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with the Standard Student Attire policy.

Each school should strive to achieve full compliance through use of positive reinforcement measures, and should resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, schools shall communicate with parents so that the expectations, rationale, and benefits are fully understood by the student and his/her family.

3. Since the intent of the policy is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in Standard Student Attire from receiving the education to which he/she is entitled, no student shall receive a lowered academic grade as a result of not complying with the policy. In addition, prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the policy, the school will conference with the student and give him or her an opportunity to change into Standard Student Attire. Additionally, a conference with the parent must be held with a school administrator to ensure the parent is aware of the policy and possible consequences of non-compliance.
4. Exemptions
  - a. A parent/guardian may apply for their child to be exempt from the Standard Student Attire policy in the following instances:
    - (1) When the parent/guardian can demonstrate a bona fide religious objection to wearing the Standard Student Attire.
    - (2) When wearing Standard Student Attire is inappropriate due to a verified medical condition.
  - b. Exemption Procedures
    - (1) Parents or guardians may apply for their child to be exempt from the Standard Student Attire policy for that particular school year by submitting a written, signed Application for Exemption to the school principal.
    - (2) If the parent/guardian requests an exemption based upon a bona fide religious objection, the Application for Exemption must include a written statement explaining the religious belief and how it is adversely affected by complying with the Standard Student Attire policy.

- (3) The parent/guardian shall meet with the school principal or designee to discuss the Standard Student Attire policy and the nature of the objections to the policy. The purposes of this meeting include (a) ensuring that the parents or guardians understand the reasons for, and goals of the Standard Student Attire policy; (b) verifying the accuracy of the information on the Application for Exemption; and (c) preventing fraud or misrepresentation.
    - (4) A decision to grant or deny the Application for Exemption will be made by the school principal. If the principal denies the Application for Exemption, the parent may appeal the decision to the Associate Superintendent/designee. If the denial is upheld by the Associate Superintendent/designee, the parent may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or designee. The decision by the Superintendent or designee shall be final. The student will be exempt from the Standard Student Attire requirements while the Application for Exemption is being processed (during this time, however, students will still be required to comply with the Basic Dress Code provisions as set forth in Section IV).
  5. Students will be expected to wear the school approved Standard Student Attire during regular school hours while in attendance at the school or school approved functions. Regular school hours are considered to be the accepted regular school academic day.

#### H. Information Dissemination

It is the responsibility of the school to communicate to parents information including general guidelines for enforcement of the Standard Student Attire policy.

#### I. Financial Considerations

1. No students shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to wear Standard Student Attire by reason of financial hardship.
2. Each school shall:
  - a. Develop a procedure to identify families in need of financial assistance.

- b. Work with staff, the local school community and business partners to identify resources for assisting families.
- c. Assist those identified families to purchase the approved attire.

VI. Standard Student Attire Policy Determination Procedure

Parental support for a Standard Student Attire policy is critical for its implementation and success. Therefore, parent's/guardian's involvement in the decision-making process must take place throughout the procedure.

Prior to the implementation of a voluntary or mandatory Standard Student Attire policy, the individual school considering such a policy will:

- A. Ensure student/parent/staff input and involvement throughout the decision-making process.
- B. Thoroughly review with students/parents/staff available research on the advantages/disadvantages of a Standard Student Attire policy.
- C. Openly communicate with students/parents/staff all issues of a Standard Student Attire policy actively seeking their input, suggestions, and recommendation(s).
- D. Should a decision be made to implement a Standard Student Attire policy, the principal and the site-based committee shall determine Standard Student Attire. The committee membership shall align with the requirements set forth in Section V(C).
- E. If a school has met the criteria provided for in Section V(A), the principal, with the approval of the Associate Superintendent/designee, will determine whether to implement a mandatory Standard Student Attire policy. The requirement to survey families contained in Section V(A)(1) does not apply to voluntary Standard Student Attire policies.
- F. With approval of the Associate Superintendent/designee, a school and the Standard Student Attire site-based committee in accordance with CCSD established timelines, may initiate after a minimum of one (1) year of implementation, the survey process in order to discontinue implementation of a mandatory Standard Student Attire policy prior to the expiration of the identified survey cycle.
- G. In order to give adequate time to plan for the opening of the school year,



notification of the final decision will be sent to families that make up the population of the student body via U.S. Mail and postmarked no later than May 31 of the current school year.

- H. The requirement to survey families contained in Section V(A)(1) does not apply to schools which provide services in an alternative school setting/location as identified by The Education Services Division. It is not practical to survey families at these schools due to the temporary assignment of the student population. Therefore, the Associate Superintendent of The Education Services Division shall have the authority to adopt a Standard Student Attire policy as identified in Section V(D) at these schools.

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