



NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: J - Students
POLICY TITLE: Student Dress and Grooming Standards
FILE No.: JDG
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1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education recognizes that student dress and grooming may impact the education of students. Experience and research have demonstrated that the learning atmosphere is improved when students dress and groom in a way that is not distracting. Appropriate student dress and grooming promotes an effective learning environment free of unnecessary disruption. In addition, appropriate student dress and grooming helps increase school and student safety and security. The Board emphasizes the importance of cooperation among schools, parents/guardians, and students to ensure appropriate dress and grooming, and further recognizes that parents/guardians are primarily responsible for their students' dress and grooming. The Board delegates to the school administration the responsibility to see that each student adheres to the dress and grooming standards set forth in this policy.

2. GENERAL STANDARDS

- 2.1** The school administration may determine that certain types of student clothing and grooming are prohibited which:
 - 2.1.1** Draw undue attention, distracts, disrupts, and/or interferes with the educational environment at school or at a school activity or event.
 - 2.1.2** Endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the student or others.
 - 2.1.3** May cause damage to school facilities or equipment.
- 2.2** A student who participates in a class, activity, or event that requires a uniform or other specified dress and grooming standards for safety or other reasons must meet the requirements of the class, activity, or event in order to participate.

3. SPECIFIC STANDARDS

- 3.1** Students shall comply with the following dress and grooming standards at school and at school activities or events:
 - 3.1.1** Clothing must be neat, clean, and in good repair.

- 3.1.2** Clothing must be modest. Modesty includes covering shoulders, midriff, back, underwear, and cleavage. Inappropriately short, tight, or revealing clothing is prohibited. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be at least mid-thigh length when the student is sitting.
- 3.1.3** Clothing and personal items such as jewelry, backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc., shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignias that (a) are lewd, obscene, vulgar, or profane; (b) are violent or advocate hate; (c) signify gang affiliation; (d) promote or represent tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or illegal substances; (e) promote or represent criminal or illegal activities; (f) infringe upon the rights of others; or (g) are sexually suggestive.
- 3.1.4** Hats and other head coverings may not be worn by students in elementary schools except as part of an approved school activity or event, for medical reasons, or as an exercise of a sincerely held religious belief. Students in secondary schools may wear hats and other head coverings. Notwithstanding the foregoing, hats and head coverings may not be worn in either elementary or secondary schools if doing so disrupts the educational environment, poses a danger to self or others, or limits the ability of others to identify the student.
- 3.1.5** Sunglasses may not be worn by students in school buildings during the school day except as part of an approved school activity or for medical reasons.
- 3.1.6** Appropriate footwear shall be worn at all times.
- 3.1.7** Gang-related clothing, personal items, grooming, hairstyles, colors, and paraphernalia are not allowed in schools or at school related activities and events. This includes, but is not limited to, tattoos, bandanas, chains, clothing, or jewelry associated with gangs, gang symbols, names, initials, and insignias. School administration in consultation with law enforcement agencies will determine what constitutes "gang-related" clothing, personal items, grooming, hairstyles, colors, and paraphernalia.
- 3.1.8** Hair, including facial hair, must be maintained in a clean and well-groomed manner. Hairstyles and facial hair that draw undue attention, distract, disrupt, and/or interfere with the learning atmosphere at school or at school activities or events are prohibited.
- 3.1.9** Jewelry, accessories, piercings, tattoos, chains, clothing, etc., that draw undue attention, distract, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with the learning atmosphere at school or at school activities and events, or that create a health, safety, or welfare issue are prohibited.
- 3.2** Appropriate discretion and good judgment should be utilized for student clothing and grooming worn at school dances, activities, or events outside of the regular school day.

4 ENFORCEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

School administrators are responsible for implementation and enforcement of this policy. The legal concept of "reasonableness" shall be the guiding principle. School administrators may approve exceptions to this policy for special school activities or events. Adherence to these dress and grooming standards will be the responsibility of the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). Students not in compliance may be asked to change, remove, or cover the clothing or accessory that violates this policy. Any student violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, exclusion or loss of extracurricular activities, probation, alternate educational placement, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. Disciplinary procedures shall be followed as set forth in Nebo School District Policy JD, *Student Conduct and Discipline*.

5. PUBLICATION OF POLICY

This policy may be posted on the District’s website and published in student registration materials, student handbooks, parent information guides, and other appropriate school publications as directed by the District.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Nothing contained in this policy is intended to infringe upon the right of students to exercise their First Amendment rights of free speech and free exercise of religion, or their Fourteenth Amendment right to liberty. In the event that constitutional rights are implicated, student dress and grooming may be prohibited or restricted by school administration if it is necessary to avoid material and substantial interference with the school’s operations or intrusion upon the rights of students or others.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

First Amendment / Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution.
Nebo School District Policy JD, *Student Conduct and Discipline*.

FORMS

None

HISTORY

Revised: 11 July 2018 – clarified provisions related to modesty and neatness; permitted hats in secondary schools under certain circumstances; made technical and stylistic changes.

Revised: 13 May 2015 – simplified restrictions on hairstyles, beards, and piercings; made technical changes.

Renumbered and revised: 11 November 2009 – renumbered from JFCA to JDG; essentially repealed and replaced.

Revised: 22 June 2005.

Adopted before 22 June 2005.
