

Adopted: 2014

1st Reading:

Revised: 11/21/19

2nd Reading:

504 STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. Purpose

This policy enhances the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and appearance that are related to educational goals, promote school unity, enhance student safety, and permit appropriate freedom of expression.

II. General Statement of Policy

The school district encourages students to be dressed and groomed appropriately for school activities. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

"If a simple change in attire can positively influence more than 30 percent or even 25 percent of a school's student population, then perhaps administrators, teachers, students, and community members find it worth the effort. Essentially, students reported positive impacts by simply changing the clothes they wore to school, and comparatively, there wasn't much of a downside." (Sanchez, J. 2012)

The district believes in research-supported decision making. ASA will employ a school uniform policy that is reasonable and flexible enough to allow for student individuality while maintaining the research-backed benefits of student uniforms.

School uniforms have some distinct benefits including:

- Uniforms help foster community identity and school spirit
- Uniforms address the issue of students using clothing as a status symbol
- Uniforms foster a more business-like approach to academics.
- Uniforms allow trespassers on the school grounds to be easily identified

"After implementing school uniform policies, schools often report decreases in discipline, gang involvement and bullying; and increases in safety, ease of going to school, confidence and self-esteem." (Wharton, C. 2013)

III. Non-Discriminatory Statement

It is not the intention of this policy to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or personal opinions. It is not the intention of the district to restrict the opportunities of students because of dress violations.

IV. Uniform Guidelines

Guidelines will be provided by school administration to all students/parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year and will keep copies available upon request.

These dress code guidelines will apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as to any school-related events and activities such as educational travel, graduation ceremonies, dances and prom. Administrators may make exceptions to this policy if necessary and/or appropriate under the circumstances (e.g. spirit days, etc.). The site principal or director must give explicit permission in making the exception.

Legal References:

- U. S. Const., amend. ITinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)
- Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. School Dist., 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
- D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafen, 217 Fed.Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 2007)
- Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist., 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)
- B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist., 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)
- B. H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist., 725 F.3d 293 (3rd Cir. 2013)
- Hardwick v. Heyward, 711 F. 3d 426 (4th Cir.2013)
- Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ., 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D.N.C. 1999)
- Madrid v. Anthony, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)
- McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3, 804 F.Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
- Olesen v. Bd. of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228, 676 F.Supp. 820, 44 Educ. L. Rep. 205 (N.D. Ill. 1987)