

SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Policy

Article: 5000 Students

Title: Dress Code

Policy #: 5102

DRESS CODE

The Smyrna School District student dress code supports equitable educational access for all students. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size. All students and staff are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individuals' clothing/self-expression. The Smyrna School District ("District") expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school-sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s). The District is responsible for creating a school climate in which student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student and does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student.

1. Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times:

Clothes must be worn such that the full torso from the armpits to mid-thigh is covered. Stomachs, genitals, buttocks, and breasts must be fully covered. All items listed in the "Must Wear" and "May Wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear*, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A **Top/shirt** (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), **AND**
- **Pants/jeans or the equivalent** (for example, a skirt, a dress, sweatpants, leggings, or shorts),
AND
- **Shoes.**

**Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on covering bodies in a particular way or promoting culturally-specific attire. Activity-specific shoes requirements are permitted (for example, athletic shoes for PE).*

3. Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- Religious headwear
- Hats (as long as the hat does not cover the entire head or any part of the face).
- Hoodie sweatshirts and jackets (as long as the hood is not used to cover the head or face).
- Fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants and "skinny jeans".
- Pants with rips or holes, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed.
- Sleeveless tops, excluding spaghetti straps, halter tops or tube tops.

4. Students May Not Wear:

- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity).
- *Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images, language, or accessories that create a hostile or intimidating environment.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments.
- Swimsuits.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance).

**According to the American Library Association, "Hate speech is any form of expression through which speakers [or messages] intend to vilify, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group or a class of persons" and/or "when it directly incites imminent criminal activity or consists of specific threats of violence targeted against a person or group."*

5. Dress Code Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below.

- Students will be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms only as a result of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 4 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided three (3) options to be in compliance during the same school day:
 - A. Students may change into their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be in compliance for the remainder of the day.
 - B. Students will be provided with temporary school clothing, if available, to be in compliance for the remainder of the day.
 - C. If necessary, students' parents/guardians may be contacted during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to be in compliance for the remainder of the day.
- No student shall be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- Students not in compliance with Sections 1 and 4 above will be addressed discreetly and individually away from peers in a non-confrontational manner, and provided the alternative options above.

This Dress Code Policy is inspired, in part, by the Evanston Township High School Dress Code.

We appreciate your continuing support in this effort to enforce the universal Smyrna School District Dress Code.

Approved by the Board of Education, March 17, 2004
Revision Approved by the Board of Education, September 19, 2012
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