

**DRESS AND GROOMING**

The County Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The County Board expects students to wear clothing that is suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students shall not wear clothing that presents a health or safety hazard or causes a substantial disruption to the educational program.

*(cf. 4119.22/4219.22/4319.22 - Dress and Grooming)*

LACOE school rules pertaining to student attire shall be included in the annual notification, student handbooks, may be posted in school offices and classrooms, and may be periodically reviewed with all students as necessary.

Students shall not be prohibited from dressing in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression or with their religious or cultural observance.

In addition, the dress code shall not discriminate against students based on hair texture and protective hairstyles, including, but not limited to, braids, locks, and twists. (Education Code 212.1)

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

The principal or designee is authorized to enforce this policy and shall inform any student who does not reasonably conform to the dress code. The dress code shall not be enforced in a manner that discriminates against a particular viewpoint or results in a disproportionate application of the dress code based on students' gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, household income, or body type or size.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 0415 - Equity)*

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

School administrators, teachers, and other staff shall be notified of appropriate and equitable enforcement of the dress code.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

When practical, students shall not be directed to correct a dress code violation during instructional time or in front of other students.

Repeated violations or refusal to comply with the district's dress code may result in disciplinary action.

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

**DRESS AND GROOMING** (continued)

**Gang-Related Apparel**

The principal, staff, and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing gang-related apparel when there is evidence of a gang presence that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school's activities. Such a proposed dress code shall be presented to the County Board, which shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school environment. The dress code policy may be included in the school's comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 35183)

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 5136 - Gangs)*

When determining specific items of clothing that may be defined as gang apparel, the school shall ensure that the determination is free from bias based on race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or other protected characteristics.

**Uniforms**

The County Board may approve a school-initiated dress code requiring students at the school to wear a school uniform whenever the County Board determines that such a dress code will promote student achievement, a positive school climate, and/or student safety.

The County Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures whereby parents/guardians may choose to have their children exempted from the school uniform policy. Students shall not be penalized academically, otherwise discriminated against, or denied attendance to school if their parents/guardians so decide. (Education Code 35183)

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms. (Education Code 35183)

*Legal references (see next page)*

**DRESS AND GROOMING** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

*EDUCATION CODE*

*212.1 Nondiscrimination based on race or ethnicity*

*220 Nondiscrimination*

*32281 School safety plans*

*35183 School dress codes; uniforms*

*35183.5 Sun-protective clothing*

*48907 Student exercise of free expression*

*49066 Grades; effect of physical education class apparel*

*COURT DECISIONS*

*Jacobs v. Clark County School District, (2008) 26 F. 3d 419*

*Harper v. Poway Unified School District, (2006) 445 App. 3d 166*

*Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al, (C.D. Cal. 1993)  
827 F.Supp. 1459*

*Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education, (1992) 2 Cal. 4th 251*

*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, (1988) 108 S. Ct. 562*

*Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899*

*Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, (1969) 393 U.S. 503*

**DRESS AND GROOMING**

In cooperation with teachers, students, and parents/guardians, the principal or designee may establish school rules governing student dress and grooming, which are consistent with law, County Board policy, and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

*(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)*

The following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Clothing, jewelry, and personal items shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia that is vulgar, lewd, obscene, profane, or sexually suggestive or promotes the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or other illegal activity.
2. Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times.
3. Hats, caps, and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors.
4. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments. See-through tops and bare abdomens are prohibited.

The dress code shall be modified as appropriate to accommodate a student's religious or cultural observance, health condition, or other circumstance deemed necessary by the principal or designee. In addition, the principal or designee may impose dress requirements to accommodate the needs of special school activities, physical education classes, athletic activities, and other extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

*(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)*

*(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)*

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

*(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)*

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066)

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*

Students shall be allowed to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day. (Education Code 35183.5)

*(cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)*

**DRESS AND GROOMING** (continued)

**Gang-Related Apparel**

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff, and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus. (Education Code 32282)

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received. As necessary, the school shall collaborate with law enforcement agencies to update definitions of gang-related apparel.

**Uniforms**

In schools that require a schoolwide uniform, the principal, staff, and parents/guardians of the school shall jointly select the specific uniform to be worn. (Education Code 35183)

At least six months before a school uniform policy is implemented, the principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy. (Education Code 35183)

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

Parents/guardians shall also be informed of their right to have their child exempted.

The County Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for determining student eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be allowed to wear organization uniforms on days when the organization has a scheduled meeting. (Education Code 35183)