

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Series 5000

Students

AR 5132(a)

Dress and Grooming

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

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

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

Freedom of expression is a right guaranteed to all students. Each student's dress is, within certain limits, a matter of personal style and individual preference. Each school shall have the latitude to prohibit the wearing of any clothing, attire, apparel or accessory which is hazardous to or disruptive of the learning environment, or which interferes with the health and safety of other students. Each school principal, in cooperation with teachers, students, and parents/guardians, may establish school rules governing student attire, yet restrictions that are imposed must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school.

The following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent (i.e. dresses, leggings, or shorts) and shoes or sandals.
2. Clothing must cover the chest, back, buttocks, and torso.
3. Clothing must cover undergarments.
4. Clothing must not be see-through.
5. Clothing may not depict, advertise or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
6. Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on, including but not limited to, disability, race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, household income, gender identity, gender expression, or cultural observance.
7. Students may not wear clothing or accessories that feature offensive images or language including profanity, hate speech, pornography, vulgarities, or defamatory language.
8. Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, shop classes, field trips and other activities where unique hazards or specialized attire or safety gear is required.
9. Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible to staff. Masks are not allowed.

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Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

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)

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

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 35294.1)

Attire or grooming depicting or advocating violence, criminal activity, gang-related activity including attire, logos, or colors identified by Ventura County Sheriff's Department (VCSD), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), or Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) as gang-affiliated are prohibited.

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)

Enforcement

A school dress code is only as effective and fair as its enforcement. Enforcement shall be consistent with a school's overall discipline plan and shall ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, immigration status, body type/size, religion, and personal style. All school staff shall be notified and informed of the policy at the beginning of the school year in regard to its purpose and spirit, and how to enforce it without shaming students or disproportionately impacting certain student groups.

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AR 5132(c)

When a school staff member or school administrator discusses a dress or grooming violation with a student, a male and a female adult should be present whenever possible. Unless there is an immediate concern, a student should not be spoken to about a dress code violation in front of other students.

Teachers or staff discussing a dress or grooming violation with a student should present options for obtaining appropriate clothing (e.g. school clothing supply, call home, borrow from a friend).

Teachers should send a referral to the administration when a student is in violation of the dress code.

Whenever possible, students should not be required to wear school owned replacement garments and should never be required to wear specific garments as a disciplinary measure.

Discipline for dress or grooming violations should be consistent with the discipline policies for comparable violations.

The superintendent or designee will ensure that each school site outlines the District and School dress code guidelines in the School Handbook.

Adopted: 9-17-02

Amended: 5-17-18, 5-29-18