

# **OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY**

*Series 5000*

*Students*

*BP 5132(a)*

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## **Dress And Grooming**

The Governing Board believes that the purpose of a student dress code is to encourage students to dress appropriately for attendance at school and to adequately prepare them for participation in the educational process. Dress code policies should also protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students.

The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and his/her parents/guardians. There is an expectation that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the day or any school-sponsored event.

The Governing Board further believes:

1. All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming due to attire.
2. All students should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without impinging upon another student's choice of clothing/self-expression.
3. Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
4. Dress codes and administrative enforcement of such should not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group 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.
5. Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline due to attire should be minimized whenever possible.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about dress and grooming standards at the beginning of the school year and whenever these standards are revised.

*(cf. 4119.22 - Dress and Grooming)*

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

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

## **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 dress code may be included as part of the school safety plan and must be presented to the Board for approval. The Board shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school's students.

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*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 5136 - Gangs)*

*Legal Reference:*

**EDUCATION CODE**

35183 School dress codes; uniforms

35294.1 School safety plans

48907 Student exercise of free expression

49066 Grades; effect of physical education class apparel

**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5**

302 Pupils to be neat and clean on entering school

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

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

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

Adopted: 5-24-78

Amended: 8-5-92, 9-17-02, 5-17-2018, 5-29-2018