

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Governing Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

(cf. 4119.22 - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression: Publications Code)

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. A student who violates these standards shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

(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 safety component in the school 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.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

Uniforms

In order to promote student safety and discourage theft, peer rivalry and/or gang activity, the principal, staff and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code requiring students to wear uniforms. 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.

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

If a school's plan to require uniforms is adopted, the 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 Superintendent or designee shall ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms.

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

COURT DECISIONS

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

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

Students

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.

It is the responsibility of students and parents, with the cooperation of the school, to maintain an acceptable standard of dress. General campus and classroom dress should be neat, clean and worn as not to disrupt the learning environment of any student.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

The following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities for grades K-12:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times.
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses; which promote violence, illegal activity, or relate to gang affiliation or activity; or which advocate racial, ethnic, religious or sexual orientation prejudice.
3. Students are allowed to wear “sun-protective headgear”, which consists of a full-brim hat. The hat is to be worn as intended to provide sun protection and is only to be worn outdoors.
4. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fish-net fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops and bare midriffs are prohibited.
5. Attire or accessories, which may be used as a weapon, are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to chains, wallet chains, and items with spikes or studs.
6. Sunglasses shall not be worn in school buildings unless there is a physician’s letter on file specifying the need.

Secondary schools (7-12) may also develop specific district-wide dress and grooming standards, which may be more restrictive than the above K-12 standards. These will be posted in the student conduct code.

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

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

Students

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

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)

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.

Uniforms

In schools where a school-wide uniform is required, the principal, staff and parents/guardians of the individual 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)

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

The principal or designee shall also repeat this notification at the end of the school year so that parents/guardians are reminded before school clothes are likely to be purchased.

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

Students

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a method for recycling or exchanging uniforms as students grow out of them.

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)

STUDENT SERVICES SAFE SCHOOLS OFFICE

Procedures For Site Consideration of School Uniforms

Site Administrator: It is your responsibility to meet Board-approved procedures for implementation of a school uniform at your site. This checklist must be completed, signed and dated by you and the Safe Schools Coordinator prior to submission for Governing Board approval of school uniforms at your school.

1. Safe School Coordinator (SSC) notified of school site's interest in school uniforms. Date: _____
2. Meeting with SSC and principal to review procedures and laws. Date: _____
3. School site uniform committee (SSUC) established and meets "representative involvement" standards. Date: _____
4. Meeting with SSC and SSUC to review Board Policy 5132. Discussion to include possible uniform styles and colors, compliance measures including the waiver process, financial support, six months' notification requirement, uniform recycling program, and the balloting process. Date: _____
5. Informational meeting for parents/guardians to discuss "pros" and "cons" of school uniforms and to allow for question and answer session. Date: ____
6. Informational meeting for parents/guardians to discuss uniform styles, colors, outer garments, compliance measures, financial support programs and uniform recycling programs. Date: ____
7. Pertinent information from informational meetings is summarized and mailed to "absent" parents/guardians. Date: _
8. Parents/guardians have had several opportunities to vote on implementation of uniforms. Date: _____
9. Balloting process was in compliance with Board Policy. Date: _____
10. Letter to SSC certifying that Board-approved procedures were followed and that 75 percent of voting parents/guardians approved uniforms. Letter includes request for SSC to submit school's request to the Superintendent and the Board for approval of uniform implementation. Date: _____

We certify that _____ School has met the procedures for the implementation of school site uniforms in accordance with Board Policy.

Principal or Designee Signature

_____ Date

Safe School Coordinator

_____ Date

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Application For Exemption From Student Uniform Requirement

Parent/Guardian: _____

Name of Student: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____ Track: _____ Grade: _____ School Year: _____

I certify that I am the parent/guardian of the student named above. I choose to have my child excused from compliance with the school's Student Uniform Policy for the current school year. I hereby request an exemption from the school uniform requirement, on behalf of the above named student, for the current school year, at the above named school, pursuant to Education Code Section 35183(e). (Education Code 35183(e) defines a parent's right to request exemption for his/her child as it relates to a school's adoption of mandatory school uniforms for specific reasons.) I also understand that my child must follow the dress code approved by the Visalia Unified School District Governing Board.

The reason(s) for this application for exemption is as follows: _____

I understand that this exemption for the current school year will only be approved after I have given a written reason for the exemption and met with the principal or designee to discuss the student uniform policy exemption requirements.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date of Application: _____