

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The Fourteenth Amendment protects the right to choose hair length, clothing, and other aspects of appearance. The school cannot interfere with this right by punishing or restricting individuals from any school activities because of appearance unless there is an overriding, legitimate school purpose, which the school can show to be more important than this right. Such legitimate school purposes include the concern that appearance poses a genuine threat to health or safety (for example, science lab safety or gym specific clothing) or damages school property (for instance, metal cleats or shoes). Another legitimate purpose is to prevent disruption. Disruptive clothing is considered clothing upon which any of the following is displayed: words or pictures that promote or advertise alcohol, drugs, tobacco, prejudice, sexual innuendo or promote illegal behavior; obscenities, words or symbols that will knowingly incite others or words or symbols that put down (defame) the beliefs or heritage of others. Clothing expectations include footwear, shirts, and pants/short/skirts/dresses.

Individual teachers may not put in restrictions for dress code that vary from this policy.

If the dress of a student is in question, the student should be discreetly referred to the nurse between classes.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:82; 71:83 CROSS REF: School Student/Parent Handbooks

Approved: September 22 , 2008

Amended: May 12, 2014

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