

WASATCH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Statement of ...

Policy and Responsibility

Policy Orig. Date: 2002

Effective Date: 10/10/2002

Revision Date: None

Approval Date: 10/10/2002

Subject: STUDENT DRESS GROOMING & APPEARANCE

The Wasatch County School District recognizes that appropriate dress and grooming directly impacts the pedagogical purpose of schools, promotes an effective learning climate, increases campus safety and security, fosters school unity and pride, eliminates label competition, assures modesty, minimizes clothing costs for parents, and facilitates learning self-discipline and appropriate mature behavior. School administrators, teachers, and parents need clear dress and grooming guidelines so that rules of dress and discipline can be consistently enforced. Certain fads and extremes of dress and hair styling tend to attract undue attention to an individual and interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Experience has demonstrated that the learning atmosphere is improved when students both look and dress appropriately. The Board recognizes that parents/guardians are primarily responsible for their students' dress and grooming. Based on these principles, the Board delegates to the administration the responsibility to see that each school adheres to the dress and grooming standards embodied in this Policy in classrooms, school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, at school activities, and at all school functions.

Any personal appearance in either clothing style or personal grooming is prohibited if, in the determination of the administration:

- It tends to cause an actual and/or perceived disruption of the educational environment or activities. Disruption is defined as reaction by others to clothing or adornment which causes the teacher/administrator to lose the attention of any student, to modify or cease instructional or other activities, or to deal with student or parent/guardian confrontations or complaints.
- It would endanger the health, safety or welfare of either the student or others.
- It does not conform to generally accepted community standards or it calls undue attention to the anatomical details of the individual.
- It does not conform to the requirements of a special class or activity approved by the school principal which requires special dress or grooming and in which the student expects to participate.
- It appears as an obvious attempt to challenge the intent and scope of the policy or the authority of the school in its reasonable interpretation and enforcement.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:

The Board emphasizes the importance of school, parent, and student collaboration to encourage students to attend school dressed appropriately for school work. School officials shall adhere to the following guidelines at school or school activities:

- Clothing will be modest, neat, clean, in good repair. Modesty includes covering shoulders, midriff, back, underwear, and cleavage at all times. Extreme clothing, including but not limited to, baggy or "sagging" clothing; excessively oversized clothing; inappropriately short, tight, or revealing shorts, skirts, dresses, tank shirts, halter or crop tops, spaghetti straps, etc.; clothing that is mutilated, torn, ripped, or frayed; and crossdressing is prohibited. Skirts, dresses and shorts must be at least mid-thigh length when seated.

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- Clothing and personal items, paraphernalia, jewelry, backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc., shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignias, which are crude, vulgar, profane, violent, advocates hate or anger, or are sexually suggestive.
- Items bearing advertising, promotions and likeness of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or other substances a student cannot legally possess or use or which are contrary to the educational mission, shall not be allowed.
- Headwear and sun glasses are not to be worn in the building except as part of an approved activity; or for medical or religious purpose.
- Shoes to insure personal safety and hygiene shall be worn at all times.
- Gang-related clothing, colors, and paraphernalia shall not be allowed in schools or activities. School officials will determine what constitutes "gang" clothing, colors, and paraphernalia after consultation with law enforcement agencies as needed.
- All students must maintain their hair, mustaches, sideburns, and beards in a clean and well-groomed manner. Hair, which is so conspicuous, extreme, or odd in color or style that it draws undue attention, disrupts, or tends to disrupt or interfere with the learning atmosphere at school, shall not be allowed.
- Clothing, jewelry, accessories, piercing, tattoos, chains, etc., which are so conspicuous, extreme, or odd that they may draw undue attention, disrupt, or tend to disrupt, interfere with or pose a health or safety issue to the learning atmosphere at school, shall not be allowed.

UNIFORM DRESS

This policy does not officially encourage or discourage school uniforms. The Board authorizes, consistent with state law, school officials and school communities to adopt policies on school uniforms at the school level. A school community that wishes to adopt a school uniform dress code must follow the rules set forth by the state legislature.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- School administrators are responsible for this policy all school functions. Exceptions may be approved by the principal for pre-planned special activities.
- This policy will be publicized so that it reaches all affected parties---school staff, students, parents, and the community.
- Interpretation of the standards will be both the right and responsibility of the school administration. The key legal word is "reasonableness."

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- Adherence to these dress and grooming standards will be the responsibility of the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian. Failure to conform may result in the student's dismissal from school and the ability to participate in school activities or, in the case of a special activity that requires special dress or grooming, the student being restricted from participation.

This policy sets dress standards for all students and staff in Wasatch County School District and all staff members are expected to adhere to and enforce this policy. A school should develop specific procedures to enact this policy, but may not exceed, nor alter the requirements herein. The appeals procedure for this policy is the same as the appeals procedure for matters involving the Safe Schools Policy of the District.