

Dress and Grooming

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. SCOE 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.

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.

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, SCOE policy, and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

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

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals must have heel straps. Thongs or backless shoes or sandals are not acceptable.
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, or which advocate racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice.
3. Hats, caps, and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors.
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, bare midriffs, and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.
5. Gym shorts may not be worn in classes other than physical education.
6. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Hair may not be sprayed by any coloring that would drip when wet.

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

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.

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

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 approved by the County Superintendent or designee. The

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Superintendent or designee shall approve the plan upon determining that it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school's students.

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.

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.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 32281-32282 School safety plans
- 35183-35183.5 School dress codes; uniforms
- 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

- 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)

Policy Cross-Reference:

- 0420 School Plans/Site Councils
- 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan
- 3260 Fees and Charges
- 4119.22 Dress and Grooming
- 5121 Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement
- 5136 Gangs
- 5144 Discipline
- 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression