

Students

Series 500

Policy Title Student Appearance

Code No. 502.5

The Board believes inappropriate student appearance may cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirements of a good learning environment. The standards will be those generally acceptable to the community as appropriate in a school setting.

The Board expects students to be clean and well-groomed and wear clothes in good repair and appropriate for the time, place and occasion. Clothing or other apparel promoting products illegal for use by minors, and clothing displaying obscene material, profanity or reference to prohibited conduct are disallowed. While the primary responsibility for students' personal appearance lies with the students and their parents, appearance disruptive to the education program will not be tolerated. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Adopted: June 22, 1970  
July 11, 2011

Reviewed: December 1, 2008

Amended: April 12, 1993  
April 8, 1996

Cross Reference: 400.1 Nondiscrimination  
502.1 Student Behavior & Discipline

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)  
Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).  
Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Comm. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).  
Bystrom v. Fridley High School, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).  
Torvik v. Decorah Community School, 453 F.2d 779 (8th Cir. 1972).  
Turley v. Adel Comm. Sch. Dist., 322 F.Supp. 402 (S.D. Iowa 1971).  
Sims v. Colfax Comm. Sch. Dist., 307 F.Supp. 485 (Iowa 1970).  
Iowa Code § 279.8 (1995).

Students

Series 500

Policy Title Student Dress Code

Code No. 502.5-R

Marshalltown Community School District's goal is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment where students and staff focus on student achievement without distractions. Gang-related and other apparel worn at school that draws attention away from the school's learning environment shall be prohibited.

Employees are expected to enforce the dress code consistently and fairly. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications.

These regulations align with purposes stated in board policy and may be amended at any time at the discretion of the Superintendent.

**Prohibited Apparel**

1. Any item that indicates affiliation with a gang.
2. Any clothing that is disruptive of or distracting from the educational process is unacceptable.
3. Any clothing displaying drug/alcohol use, gang affiliation or offensive language/symbols is unacceptable.
4. Clothing that is excessively tight or loose, or that reveals cleavage, back, chest, stomach, any portion of the buttocks or undergarments.
5. Sheer or see-through clothing.
6. Excessively torn, soiled or frayed clothing.
7. Sunglasses, unless prescribed by a physician for indoor use.
8. Any attire that might be used as a weapon including, but not limited to, steel-toed shoes/boots, chains, items with spikes/studs or any type of protruding object.

**Tops**

1. Hooded clothing may not be worn with the hood pulled over the head.
2. Appropriate tops include, but are not limited to, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and camies/tank shirts (only if worn underneath an overshirt).
3. Lighter weight jackets, fleeces, sweaters and vests may be worn in classrooms, hallways or common areas during the school day.

**Bottoms, Skirts and Dresses**

1. Inappropriate bottoms for school includes pajamas or other clothing meant to be worn as sleepwear, clothing made of fishnet fabric, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants.
2. Appropriate bottoms for school includes, but is not limited to, pants (including jeans), dresses, skirts, capris, shorts and skorts (all must extend to or below mid-thigh). Nylons, tights or leggings may only be worn under a dress, skirt, shorts or pants.

**Footwear**

1. Inappropriate footwear for school includes slippers or house shoes, shoes with skates in the bottom, and going barefoot (except while participating in a school activity such as swimming or gymnastics where shoes are not appropriate).
2. Appropriate footwear for school includes, but is not limited to, athletic/walking shoes and sandals.

**Headwear and Outer-wear**

1. Inappropriate headwear for school includes hats, caps, hoods, visors, bandanas, do-rags/wraps, hairnets and sweatbands (hairbands are acceptable).
2. Coats, gloves and mittens are not permitted in classrooms, hallways or common areas other than during passage to and from the student's locker or coat room upon arrival to or departure from the school.

**Exceptions**

1. Some courses may have safety requirements that extend beyond these regulations.
2. Extremes in temperature or other temporary conditions may warrant exceptions to these regulations as deemed appropriate by the principal.
3. An exemption to the dress code may be granted due to religious beliefs, health conditions that require accommodations, or special education IEP requirements. An exemption request must be submitted in writing to the principal.

Adopted: July 11, 2011

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Reviewed:

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
Bethal School District v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).

Amended:

Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Comm. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).  
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Sims v. Colfax Comm. Sch. Dist., 307 F.Supp. 485 (Iowa 1970).  
Iowa Code § 279.8 (1995). Iowa Code § 279.58 Dress Code Policies