

Report on Proposed Revisions to the 2023-2024 Conduct & Dress Code

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Senior Director, Child Welfare and Attendance
Fallon Ferris
Equity and Intervention Specialist
April 17, 2023



EVERY STUDENT MATTERS, EVERY MOMENT COUNTS

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Purpose of Presentation

- Provide the Modesto City Schools Board members with **proposed revisions** to the MCS Conduct Code.
 - **Proposed revisions** to the 7-12 Academic Probation Criteria
 - **Proposed revisions** to the Modesto City Schools Dress Code



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District Goal Alignment

- **Goal Three:** Provide a **safe, welcoming, and respectful** learning environment for **every member of the school community** while ensuring **effective** District-wide **communication** for students, staff, families, and community **partners**.

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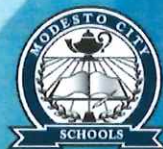


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Proposed Revisions to 7-12 Academic Probation Criteria

- Currently, grades 7-8 have a **different** "academic probation" processes than 9-12
- Recommend **aligning** the 7-8 "extra-curricular activity probation" with the current 9-12 "athletic probation" for athletic team participation

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Rationale of Proposed Dress Code Revisions

- Growing student and staff frustrations with the dress code
 - Significant review of the policy has not taken place for over 20 years
 - Need to maintain **safety**
 - Students should not **fear unnecessary discipline** or body shaming
 - Respect and understand student **desires** to express themselves **appropriately**
 - Ensure **equity** in expectations

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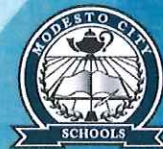


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Dress Code Input/Committee

- Began gathering input and assembled a **committee** to review our current dress code.
 - Student Forum
 - Student Advisory Council
 - Educational partner surveys
 - Committee Meetings:
 - #1: December 1, 2022
 - #2: January 26, 2023
 - #3: March 28, 2023

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Dress Code Committee Members

- | | |
|--|--|
| Albarran, Christina, Teacher 9-12 | Martinez, Deborah, Community Member |
| Butler, Deborah, Principal 7-8 | Ortiz, Shannda, Resource Specialist |
| Conteh, Marla, Principal K-6 | Patel, Dhara, Student Board Representative |
| Cooper, Jocelyn, Community Member | Patterson, Richard, ASES Coordinator |
| Cox, Sarah, Principal 9-12 | Patterson, William, School Support Manager |
| Ferris, Fallon, Equity & Intervention Specialist | Patton, Wade, Community Member |
| Guerrero, Francisco, Principal 7-8 | Peterson, Chris, MTA Leadership |
| Gustafson, Khani, Community Member | Powell, Denise, Principal K-6 |
| Houck, Dave, Senior Director, CWA | Priya, Mishra, Intervention Center Teacher |
| Krone, Justin, Intervention Center Teacher | Schar, Nathan, Principal 9-12 |

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Dress Code Data

- Survey participation:
 - Students: **5,989** respondents
 - Parents: **687** respondents
 - Classified & Certificated Staff: **1,625** respondents

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Dress Code Data

- Hats should be allowed on campus (both in the classroom and around campus)

Students		Parents		Staff	
Strongly Agree:	51.2%	Strongly Agree:	13%	Strongly Agree:	9%
Agree:	40%	Agree:	39%	Agree:	34%
Disagree:	6.5%	Disagree:	28%	Disagree:	29%
Strongly Disagree:	2.3%	Strongly Disagree:	20%	Strongly Disagree:	28%



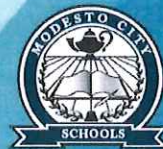
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Dress Code Data

- Students should be able to show bare abdomens (midriff)

Students		Parents		Staff	
Strongly Agree:	34%	Strongly Agree:	4%	Strongly Agree:	3%
Agree:	40%	Agree:	15%	Agree:	14%
Disagree:	16%	Disagree:	26%	Disagree:	27%
Strongly Disagree:	10%	Strongly Disagree:	55%	Strongly Disagree:	56%



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Dress Code Data

- Clothing must be **secured** and **cover** personal body parts

Students		Parents		Staff	
Strongly Agree:	26%	Strongly Agree:	71%	Strongly Agree:	69%
Agree:	39%	Agree:	22%	Agree:	25%
Disagree:	24%	Disagree:	2%	Disagree:	1%
Strongly Disagree:	11%	Strongly Disagree:	5%	Strongly Disagree:	5%

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Proposed Dress Code

- Committee Recommendation
 - Committee Gathered Input
 - Reviewed neighboring Districts' dress codes
 - Reviewed applicable law and current trends
 - Realized that no change will make every group satisfied

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Proposed Dress Code

- Attached you will find the proposed dress code
 - **Significant changes**
 - Permits hats (head coverings) on **campus** and in **class**
 - Permits **hoods** on **campus** and in **class** (earbuds forbidden during instructional time)
 - Permits tops with **bare mid-ribs** for males and females
 - Tops must include straps

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Proposed Dress Code

- **Proposed Dress Code similarities**
 - Bans any **gang** attire
 - **Forbids** clothing and accessories that depict violent language, pornography, hate speech, profanity, drugs, alcohol or any illegal activity
 - No **visible** undergarments
 - No **see-through** clothing
 - Sites still **maintain** the ability to create site-based **modifications** to their dress code (approval from CWA and MPD)

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Next Steps

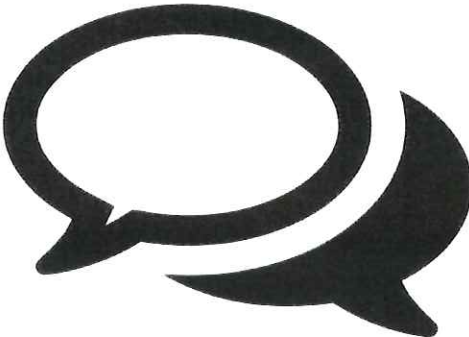
- Gather feedback from the Board of Education
- Submit finalized conduct/dress code revisions for approval on **May 15th** meeting for 2023- 2024 school year
- Begin messaging to our staff, parents and students

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Public Comment



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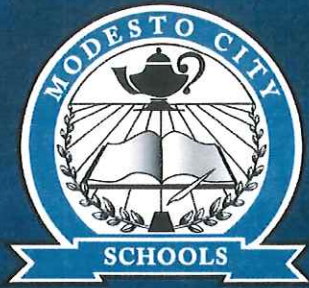
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Questions



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MCS DRESS CODE

Students **MUST** Wear

- Top with straps or sleeves
- Bottom: pants, skirts, shorts, etc. covering buttocks (no micro minis or short shorts)
- Shoes (no backless footwear for elementary students)
- Secured clothing that protects and covers personal body parts

Students **MAY** Choose to Wear:

- Hats, including religious headwear
- Hooded shirts /jackets (over the head is allowed)

Students **CANNOT** Wear:

- Clothing and accessories that:
 - depicts violent language or images
 - are deemed a potential threat to student and/or staff safety
 - illustrates images or language depicting drugs, alcohol, or any illegal activity
 - displays hate speech, profanity, or pornography
 - includes images or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment
 - is sheer or see-through (clothing must be opaque)
- Visible underwear, bralettes, bandeau tops, sports bras, or backless shirts
- Unsecured clothing that allows personal body parts to be visible with movement or contact
- Headgear that obscures a student's identity (except as a religious observance)
- For identification purposes, a student's face must be clearly visible, including when taking school photos; this may require removal of a hood and/or hat

Examples of clothing deemed a potential threat to student and/or staff safety:

- Pants oversized at the waist such as folded in at the waist or belt line
- Wearing pants below the waistline (sagging)
- Steel-toe combat style boots
- Predominantly red or blue shirts or sweatshirts (two or more articles of clothing)
- Red or blue items hanging over the shoulder or out of pockets
- Red or blue apparel exposed under any shirt or collar
- Bandannas, red or blue belts, or red or blue rags



MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

In partnership with students and parents, the Modesto City Schools Administration, and staff requests review of students' attire to ensure it meets the following dress code guidelines before arriving to school:

- **Students MUST Wear:**

- Top with straps
- Bottom: pants, skirts, shorts, etc. covering buttocks (no micro minis or short shorts with entire thigh exposed)
- Shoes (no backless footwear for elementary students)
- **Secured** clothing that protects and covers personal body parts

- **Students MAY Choose to Wear:**

- Hats, including religious headwear
- Hooded shirts/jackets (over the head is allowed)

- **Students CANNOT Wear:**

- Clothing and accessories that depicts violent language or images
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 - Red or blue apparel exposed under any shirt or collar
 - Gang related bandannas, red or blue belts, red or blue rags