

Policy JFCA: STUDENT DRESS CODE

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 01/28/2019

25D UPDATE EXPLANATION

MSBA has updated this policy to align with updates to JFCA-AP1, which is also included in this update. MSBA does not recommend that the school board adopt a student dress code or insert the actual code in its policy manual. The superintendent and building administrators need to develop the details because they are the ones most familiar with each unique school setting, safety expectations, and current dress trends. Student dress codes also need to be flexible documents that the administrative staff can amend as needed. For that reason, this policy does not include an actual dress code but instead states the broad district goals and assigns the development of dress code guidelines to the superintendent or designee (see JFCA-AP1) and the development of building-level dress codes to building principals.

Please note that districts that require school uniforms may wish to customize this policy.

The board of education recognizes the value of allowing individual student expression as well as the necessity of protecting student health and safety and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to education. Student dress code procedures must be designed with the goal of balancing these competing interests.

All dress code procedures will adhere to health and safety codes and comply with applicable law. Dress that materially disrupts the educational environment will be prohibited. No procedure will impose dress and grooming rules based on gender in violation of Title IX. District procedures will specifically define ambiguous terms, and examples will be provided when practicable. It is important for the district to provide an education environment that is safe and welcoming to all students and free from disruption. To further these goals, building principals will establish student dress codes for all grade levels that meet the district's goals and legal requirements. The superintendent or designee will establish dress code procedures to guide building principals in formulating building-level rules. The board authorizes the superintendent or designee to consult the district's attorney for guidance on legal issues.

Goals

The student dress code(s) must align with the district's goals, which include, but are not limited to:

1. Promoting health and safety;
2. Preventing student distraction and disruption to the learning environment;
3. Teaching students civility and tolerance of others;
4. Preparing students for the workplace and other places where dress is regulated;
5. Protecting students from drug and alcohol advertisements and vulgar, indecent, and obscene pictures and language.