

Appearance and Dress Code Policy

California Administrative Code Title 5, Education, Section 302 states: *A pupil who goes to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness of dress may be sent home to be properly prepared for school or shall be required to prepare himself for the school room, before entering.*

Lancaster School District Policy 5132 states that: *The Board of Trustees believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board 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.*

Those students who persist in violating the District's standards may be suspended or expelled in accordance with legal provisions.

The standard of dress emphasizes that we are concerned with the education and safety of our students. We expect students to dress appropriately for the learning environment. Our dress code creates an effective climate for learning on our campus. We rely on the vigilance of our parents to ensure the safety of our students by adhering to the following standards:

1. Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times. Open-toed shoes, flip-flops or backless shoes are not allowed. Slippers or "house shoes" are not appropriate for school.
2. Clothes must be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fish-net fabrics, halter tops, tank tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts above mid-thigh are prohibited. All shirts and blouses must have at least a short sleeve. Sagging pants or rips/tears/splits in pants that reveal undergarments or skin above mid-thigh are prohibited. Leggings and/or stretch pants are not allowed to be worn in place of pants or an appropriate skirt, dress or shorts.
3. Clothing, hats, jewelry, skin and other personal items (backpacks, notebooks, gym bags, water bottles etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or 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. No articles of clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or accessories that are a threat to the physical well-being and safety of students will be allowed.
4. Caps, hoods, and hats may be worn outside to protect from weather; however, they are not to be worn inside buildings or classrooms unless special permission is granted. Caps and hats must be appropriate for school (see above guidelines) Scarves and other cloth head coverings may be allowed provided they are securely tied and do not obscure the individual student's face.

5. Large, sharp or dangling jewelry and/or piercings are not permitted. Hoop style earrings and/or piercings cannot be larger than the size of a quarter. The school assumes no responsibility for injuries resulting from pierced jewelry worn at school. Students will be asked to remove jewelry and accessories that present a safety concern or detract from the learning environment.

6. Pajamas may not be worn to school.

7. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed. Hair may not be sprayed by any coloring that would drip when wet.

8. Anything that distracts from the smooth functioning of the school program, as determined by the administration, is unacceptable.

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

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.

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 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.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be allowed to wear organization uniforms on days when the organization has a scheduled meeting.