

POLICY JICA

Board of Education Las Cruces Public Schools

Related Entries: JICAA, JICAA-R, JICA-R, [JL, JK](#)
Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent for ~~Instruction~~ [Teaching & Learning](#)

STUDENT DRESS

I. PURPOSE

To ensure that a student's dress or appearance does not disrupt or disturb the educational process, nor shall it constitute a threat to health or safety to themselves or to others.

II. POSITION

- A. The Board of Education believes that a student dress policy is an essential aspect of creating a school environment that is safe, conducive to learning, and free from unnecessary disruption. During the school day and while participating in ~~school~~-school-related activities/functions, students shall adhere to a standard of dress and appearance that is appropriate.
- B. It is the policy of the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education that the student and their parent/guardian ~~hold the primary~~are ~~responsibility~~-responsible ~~in~~ for determining the student's personal attire, hairstyles, jewelry, and personal items (e.g., backpacks, book bags). However, schools are responsible for assuring that student attire, hairstyles, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student.
- C. In relation to student dress, the district's core values are the following:
1. Students should be able to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming;
 2. Students have the right to be treated equitably. Dress code enforcement will not create disparities, reinforce or increase marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity; and
 3. Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- D. Attire worn in observance of a student's religion ~~are~~is not subject to this policy.
- E. This policy permits schools with a uniform policy to continue having a uniform policy, provided that it is gender neutral and inclusive of attire worn for a religious reason.

~~F. This policy permits additional student attire requirements when necessary to ensure safety in certain academic settings (e.g., physical activity, science, or career technical education courses). Additionally, this policy allows for reasonable variations in required student attire for participation in activities such as swimming or gymnastics.~~

~~G. Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:~~

- ~~1. Are pornographic, contain threats, or that promote illegal or violent conduct such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia;~~
- ~~2. Demonstrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups;~~
- ~~3. Intentionally show private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks). Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen through) material;~~
- ~~4. Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose); or~~
- ~~5. Demonstrate gang association/affiliation.~~

F. ___ Schools may establish alternate or additional attire requirements when necessary to support student safety or participation in specific instructional settings or activities, including but not limited to spirit weeks, reward days, physical education, science labs, career and technical education courses, swimming, and gymnastics.

G. Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, accessories, or personal items that:

1. Are pornographic; contain threats, obscene language or images; promote violence or illegal activity; advertise or promote weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia; or promote racist ideas or hate-based messages.
2. Expose undergarments, including pants or shorts worn below the waist in a manner that reveals underwear or garments that are worn under pants or shorts.~~or~~
- ~~3. Are shorter than mid thigh (applies to clothing such as shorts and skirts)~~
- ~~4.~~3. Fail to fully cover stomach/midriff, buttocks, and genitals with opaque (non-transparent) material.
- ~~5.~~4. Reveal an unreasonable amount of the chest ~~or cleavage~~
- ~~6.~~5. Include the following: slippers, house shoes, sleepwear, pajamas, blankets, or other attire not intended for school wear.
- ~~7.~~6. Demonstrate or promote gang affiliation or hate group affiliation, including the use of hate speech or symbols targeting individuals or groups based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other protected characteristics.
- ~~8.~~7. Cover the student's face to the extent that the student cannot be readily identified, except for clothing or headgear worn for religious or medical purposes.

~~6.~~

III. ENFORCEMENT

- A. Principals/building administrators have the discretion to allow exceptions to prohibited dress in extenuating circumstances.
- B. Principals are required to ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the guidelines of this policy.
- C. In the event of a health emergency declared by the Governor of the State of New Mexico and/or the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health that requires the wearing of a face covering, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to establish procedures to ensure that all students and staff follow these health guidelines.
- D. Should the Governor of the State of New Mexico and/or the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health issue a recommendation regarding the wearing of face coverings or other ~~health~~-health-related conditions, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board of Education, shall establish procedures based on local data regarding the district's response to the recommendations.
- E. Staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid dress-coding in front of other students.
- F. Students shall not be disciplined or removed from class as a consequence for wearing attire in violation of this policy unless the attire creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment, poses a hazard to the health and safety of others, or factors into a student behavior rule violation, such as malicious harassment or the prohibition on harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

IV. NOTIFICATION

Each year, the principal shall inform students and parents about the school's dress code requirements. The principal shall take appropriate action ~~with~~when addressing ~~h~~students who violate the requirements. However, students will be given an opportunity to correct the situation. Parents will be notified of violations, and the principal shall contact and/or discuss the situation with parents if violations are habitual.

- V. The Superintendent shall promulgate a regulation ~~for the enforcement to~~ of ~~enforce~~ this policy.

VI. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

August 4, 2020

Board of Education, President

Date

Legal Ref: 6.11.2.9 NMAC

Policy History: Formerly Policy 348, Revised 05.02.06, Revised 05.11.20, Revised 2026