



MPS DRESS CODE

A student's appearance should not distract classmates from the important task of learning. Because a relationship between one's appearance and behavior does exist and because an appropriately dressed student is better accepted by his/her peers, attire for students must be reasonable, modest and in such style that it will not cause a learning distraction. The guidelines below are *minimum* standards. Should there be a question regarding clothing or grooming, a principal may be consulted for clarification.

General Rules:

The following decorations and/or designs imprinted upon or attached to the body or clothing is prohibited:

- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms that convey crude, vulgar, profane, violent, death-oriented, gang-related, sexually explicit, or sexually suggestive messages.
- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms advertising tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms identifying a student as a member of a secret or overtly antisocial group or gang or that identifies a student as a member of an organization that professes violence or hatred toward one's fellow man.
- Excessively large or baggy clothes and sagging pants are prohibited. When appropriate, a belt, zip ties, or duck tape will be provided by administration.
- Permitted garments should be clean, in good repair, and have no holes, slashes or rips at fingertip length.
- Blankets or other excessive coverings may not be brought into the school. Such coverings will be confiscated and can be picked up by parent/guardian.

Head Coverings/Sunglasses:

- Curlers, bandanas, shower caps, or other similar head coverings or adornments shall not be worn to class or within school buildings.
- Caps, hats, hoods, or other similar head coverings shall not be worn to class or within school buildings unless prescribed by a physician, previously approved by the school's administration for religious reasons, or approved by the school's administration for a special school activity.
- Sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician) shall not be worn to class or within school buildings.



Upper Garments:

- The cut of sleeveless garments must not expose undergarments/abdomen or be otherwise immodest. Strapless garments are prohibited.
- Shoulder straps of permitted garments must be a minimum of the width of three fingers of the person wearing the garment.
- Bare midriffs, immodest cut necklines, off-the-shoulder shirts or blouses, or bare backs are prohibited.
- Under garments including gym shorts, when worn under pants, shall not be visible.

Lower Garments:

- Undergarments shall not be visible. Zip ties will be provided if needed.
- Outermost lower garments shall be worn at the waist and shall not extend below the heel of the shoe in length.
- Bathing/swimwear are not permitted.
- Pajama tops are not permitted.
- Bike shorts and spandex shorts are not permitted.
- Shorts and skirts must be of modest length; defined by the "Dollar Bill Rule." The length between the knee and the fabric of the clothing shall not exceed that of the length of a dollar bill.
- Pants with holes must be modest and meet the "Dollar Bill Rule."

Footwear:

- Students shall wear appropriate footwear for protection and hygienic reasons while on school grounds or participating in school activities.
- Slippers without rubber soles are not permitted nor shoes with roller skates.

Accessories:

- Jewelry and other accessories shall not convey prohibited messages as defined above.
- Visible body piercing cannot be excessive or disruptive to the learning environment.
- Hair picks are not permitted.
- Excessive accessories, including animal ears, tails, and collars, are not permitted.



- A teacher and/or administrator shall have the authority to determine the appropriateness of any attire. In making the determination, the teacher and/or administrator should be governed by whether the attire is offensive, disruptive, or distracting to the learning environment.
- If a student repeatedly wears a hat or hoodie on their head during the school day, the hat or hoodie will be confiscated and be able to be picked up at the end of the school day.

PROCEDURES FOR RELIGIOUS EXCEPTIONS TO DRESS CODE

1. Any student who requests permission to wear any head covering for religious reasons shall submit a written application on the form provided by the School District. The form will be located in the School Superintendent's office.
2. The School Superintendent will submit the application to the School Board for consideration at the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting.
3. The School Board will review the application and will approve it unless the School Board finds the religious reasons are not sincerely held beliefs, or that the exception would be likely to cause a material danger to safety and security.
4. Until such time as the School Board approves the application, the student will conform to the dress code as published. The Superintendent has the authority to approve such an application on a temporary basis until the next regular School Board meeting.
5. If the application is approved by the School Board for an exception to the dress code, there shall be no change in the approved headgear without further application and approval by the School Board.
6. Any deviation by the student from the head wear previously approved by the School Board will result in disciplinary action as provided by the disciplinary guidelines.