

STUDENT DRESS

RSU 56 recognizes that students' mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of their personal style and individual preference. Our decisions regarding dress are based on the need to foster a climate conducive to a caring learning environment that nurtures personal growth and promotes safety, security, and positive attitudes. Paramount to this effort is the expectation that student dress appropriately for the school setting. Apparel that draws undue attention to the wearer can detract from the educational process and is therefore inappropriate. School is a work/learning environment; as such, acceptable standards of dress for a school setting will naturally differ from those standards associated with social attire. We believe adherence to this policy will contribute toward a positive, safe and healthy learning environment.

Accordingly, RSU 56 Board shall authorize school regulations that prohibit grooming practices which:

- Present a hazard to the health and safety of the student or to others in the school
- Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the education program
- Prevent students from achieving educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement

OR prohibit student dress such as:

- Hoods covering heads
- Pajamas
- See through garments, which are the only garment worn

Exceptions to the dress code may be made for certain school-approved events or programs.

General Rules:

- Decorations and/or designs, symbols, mottos, words or acronyms that convey offensive, vulgar, profane, violent, gang-affiliated, sexually explicit, or sexually suggestive messages shall be prohibited on any item or as part of any attire.
- Symbols, mottos, words or acronyms advertising or promoting tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia shall also be prohibited.
- Symbols, mottos, words or acronyms that profess violence or hatred toward others shall also be prohibited.

APPAREL

Under Garments:

Sleeveless garments must not expose undergarments or an area an undergarment would cover.

- Strapless garments (arm pit to arm pit) are prohibited

- Two shoulder straps (2 fingers width) shall be required on all upper garments with no one shoulder or halter-tops permitted.
- Bare midriffs; low cut necklines that reveal cleavage or bare backs are prohibited. Garments must be of appropriate length to cover the midriff as well as cut and/or fit to meet these requirements while sitting and/or bending.
- Off the shoulder shirts with sleeves are permitted as long as the above criteria is met. (Ex. Tank top worn under shirt)

Lower Garments

Lower garments must not expose undergarments or an area undergarments would cover.

- Skirts or shorts must reach mid-thigh
- Appropriate shorts may be worn for physical education activities and athletic practices.
- Excessively tight lower garments are prohibited

Footwear

- To comply with health and safety standards, no student is allowed to attend school or school functions barefooted. All students must wear footwear appropriate for their programs.

Accessories

- Spiked clothing, including, but not limited to, dog collars, wristbands, chains, or belts containing metal studs that pose a safety concern for the students or others are prohibited.
- The wearing of hats and caps shall be prohibited at the middle and elementary schools and shall be determined by the individual teachers within their classrooms as determined by each high school.
- Can wear if 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.

ENFORCEMENT

All students are expected to adhere to RSU #56 dress policy. All administrators, faculty and staff will do monitoring. Consequences for students who do not comply with the dress policy shall be administered as determined by the principal/director, assistant principal/assistant director or designee using standard disciplinary guidelines as outlined in each school's parent/student handbook.

Adopted: July 11, 2017