

**Students**  
**Dress And Grooming**

**AR 5132 (a)**

Fresno Unified School District is striving to become an exemplary district. Our goal is to provide a safe learning environment that inspires our students with the passion, power and skills to make positive life choices becoming architects of their future. To accomplish this a differentiation between the school learning environment and other social activities must be established. The guidelines for school attire for students meet this purpose. The District Standard Dress Attire policy applies to both sexes on school campuses and at school-sponsored functions and will be enforced consistently and fairly by all members of the school staff.

Each school site, in concurrence with the school site council, may develop additional guidelines stricter than the district's minimum Standard Dress Attire policy and these regulations. These local rules shall not permit items prohibited herein. Schools are responsible for notifying the students and parents/guardians in a timely manner of their supplemental Standard Dress Attire policy.

**Educationally Appropriate Dress and Grooming**

Any apparel, hair style, cosmetic or jewelry, even if not specifically mentioned below, which creates a safety concern, draws undue attention to the wearer, or tends to detract from the educational process is prohibited unless addressed elsewhere in this regulation.

Additionally, the following items are specifically prohibited:

1. Head wear, other than hats or caps, will not be allowed at school. Hats and/or caps must be removed in the classrooms or offices and worn in the appropriate manner.
2. Sunglasses are not to be worn in the classrooms, offices, or other school facilities (unless prescribed by a physician).
3. Shoes must be worn on campus and at school functions. Sandals must have heel straps. Thongs, flip-flops or backless shoes or sandals are not acceptable.
4. Underwear-type sleeveless shirts, tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, and sagging or bagging pants, pants that do not fit the waist, or radically altered or frayed clothing are not acceptable.
5. Any see-through clothing, clothing that reveals a bare midriff or chest, or clothes that expose the body in a sexually suggestive manner shall not be worn.
6. Dresses, skirts, and shorts are acceptable as long as they are extended no more than four (4") above the knee. Shorts are to be hemmed and not form fitting. Sports wear type shorts, bike shorts(spandex) gym shorts, and frayed shorts are unacceptable.
7. Attire which may be used as a weapon may not be worn, including but not limited to steel toed boots, chains, items with spikes or studs, and other items deemed inappropriate by the principal and/or school site council.
8. Fashions that draw undue attention to the wearer detract from the educational environment and are not acceptable. This includes exotic clothing, extreme make-up, body piercing, military or camouflage attire, etc.
9. Body piercing (eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue, navel) is not acceptable.
10. Hair styles which draw undue attention detract from the educational environment and not acceptable; i.e. unusual designs, colors, mohawks, tails, or unusual razor cuts.

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and

**Students**  
**Dress And Grooming**

**AR 5132 (b)**

grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

**Consequences of Dress and Grooming Code Violations**

1. Standard Violations. Persistent violations of this regulation or locally adopted supplemental regulations shall be considered to be willful defiance of directives under Education Code section 48900(k). As such for multiple violations, students will be subject to discipline as follows:
  - a. First Violation: Home contact and the violator will be required to change clothing, hair style or cosmetic.
  - b. Second Violation: Home contact and alternative to suspension or suspension if student refuses alternative.
  - c. Third Violation: Home contact and suspension.
  - d. Fourth Violation: Further disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, is the discretion of the District as permitted by state law and/or district policy/ regulation.

If a parent/guardian or student disagrees with the site administrator's decision on a standard violation, the parent/guardian or student shall attempt to resolve the problem by requesting a personal conference with the site administrator. If the problem cannot be resolved informally to the parent/guardian or student's satisfaction, the site administrator's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent's designee, whose decision shall be final.

1. Dangerous or Disruptive Violations. Dress or grooming violations that cause actual disruption of the educational environment, result in actual violation of law or other school rules, including hate-crime laws, or cause actual injury may result, is the discretion of the District Administration, in more serious disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion without regard to the steps set forth above for standard violations. The process for appeal of these dangerous or disruptive violations shall be consistent with standard District disciplinary procedures.
2. Principal Options. Principals have discretion to disallow the wearing of all shorts school-wide because of frequent student violations of this regulation.
3. Physical Education Grades. No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected due to the fact that the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel where the failure to wear such apparel arises from circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066.) (cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

**Sun Protective Clothing**

Each school site shall allow for outdoor use during the school day, articles of sun-protective clothing, including, but not limited to, hats, provided that sun-protective clothing does not otherwise violate this regulation. Each school site may set a policy related to the type of sun-protective clothing, including, but not limited to, hats, that pupils will be allowed to use outdoors, if that policy

## **Students Dress And Grooming**

**AR 5132 (c)**

is stricter than this regulation. Specific clothing and hats determined by the school district or school site to be gang-related or inappropriate apparel may be prohibited by the school site's dress code policy.

### **Exception to Regulations**

Generally, these neutral dress and grooming rules will be generally applied to all students without regard to personal circumstances. However, religious beliefs, medical requirements or other reasons may be grounds for an exception to a specific portion of the District Standard Dress Attire policy with specific advance approval from the District. A petition for an exemption from enforcement of a specified portion of District Standard Dress Attire policy may be submitted to the principal.

Under no circumstances will the principal allow an exception for dress or grooming that displays gang symbols, uses profanity, displays products or slogans that promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs or sex, materially interferes with school work, materially disrupts the school environment, substantially disrupts the school environment or which creates a risk of safety.

### **Clothing With Writing, Symbols, Pictures and Insignia**

Articles of clothing, jewelry or personal effects (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, buttons, water bottles etc.) are not allowed if those items contain writing, symbols, pictures or insignia that:

1. Display gang-related symbols as set forth below;
2. Use profanity;
3. Display products or slogans which promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs or sex;
4. Substantially disrupt the educational process;
5. Are obscene, libelous or slanderous;
6. Create a clear and present danger of commission of unlawful acts, violation of school regulations, or injury to students, staff or community;
7. Violate state hate-crime laws.

With regard to this section, school site personnel do not have the discretion to create stricter dress and grooming standards at the school site, and personnel do not have the discretion to create exceptions to these requirements.

### **Gang-Related Apparel**

Gang-related apparel is not acceptable. If 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 a school campus. (Education Code 35294.1)

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**  
**Dress And Grooming**

**AR 5132 (d)**

Principals will collaborate with Law Enforcement Agencies to update changes in gang-related apparel at the beginning of each semester or as often as needed.

**Uniforms**

In schools where a school-wide uniform is required, the principal, staff, and parents/guardians of the individual school shall jointly select the specific uniform, and uniform combinations to be worn. (Education Code 35183.) The principal or designee shall give parents/guardians at least six months notice before a school uniform policy is implemented. (Education Code 35183)

Parents/guardians shall be informed of their right to have their child exempted from a school uniform policy. A student exempted from participation in a school uniform policy by his/her parents/guardians must comply with this regulation and any supplemental dress attire policies adopted at the site level.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for determining student eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a method for recycling or exchanging uniforms as students outgrow them.

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. (Education Code 35183)

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**Fresno Unified School District**  
**Fresno, California**