Purpose

Austin ISD expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school district is responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student, and that dress code enforcement does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, immigration status, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student. ~~based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.~~ Any restrictions to the way a student dresses must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school and must be explained within this dress code.

1. Basic Principle:

- Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.
- Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric.
- However, cleavage should not have coverage requirements. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear*, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A Shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), AND
- Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), AND
- Shoes.

*Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on covering bodies in a particular way or promoting culturally-specific attire. Activity-specific shoes requirements are permitted (for example, athletic shoes for PE).

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3. Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

● Hats facing straight forward or straight backward. Hats must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff.

● Religious headwear

● Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood overhead is allowed, but the face and ears must be visible to school

staff).

● Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and “skinny jeans”

● Pajamas

● Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed.

● Tank tops, including spaghetti straps; halter tops

● Athletic attire

● Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing (as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Section 1 above).

4. Students Cannot Wear:

● Violent language or images.

● Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity).

● Hate speech, profanity, pornography.

● Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.

● Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)

● Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice).

● Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.

● Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance).

5. Dress Code Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.

- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 4 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided three (3) options to be dressed more to code during the school day:
  - Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
  - Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
  - If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- School staff shall not enforce the school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.
- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
  - kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;
  - measuring straps or skirt length;
  - asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others;
  - calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in

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front of others; in particular, directing students to correct sagged pants that do not expose the entire undergarment, or confronting students about visible bra straps, since visible waistbands and straps on undergarments are permitted; and,

- accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing.

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These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances and prom.

Students who feel they have been subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact the Associate Principal for Educational Services.

~~In order to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment at all campuses, our students will attend school dressed in clothing that is appropriate to the school setting and weather conditions.~~

~~**Age-Appropriate Dress and Grooming**~~

~~The purpose of the dress code is to create the proper learning environment and model good citizenship. Both the student and parent share the responsibility for age-appropriate dress and grooming because the selection of clothing often sets the pattern for behavior.~~

~~With this understanding and in compliance with FNCA(LOCAL), students are required to use good judgment, to respect themselves and others, and to demonstrate modesty in selecting attire.~~

~~**Distracting Dress and Grooming**~~

~~The student's dress and grooming shall not lead school officials to believe that such dress and grooming will disrupt, interfere with, disturb, or detract from school activities. Emblems or writings that are obscene or that may reasonably be expected to cause a disruption of, or interference with, normal school operations should not be displayed on clothing. [See FNCA(LOCAL)]~~

~~Clothing advertising, condoning, depicting, or promoting the use of alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances, or displaying vulgar language that detract from the learning environment shall not be worn. [See FNCF(LEGAL)]~~

~~**Safety: Dress and Grooming**~~

~~The student's dress and grooming shall not create a health hazard to the student's safety or the safety of others. Shoes should be worn at all times.~~

~~Examples of inappropriate dress at the elementary level shall include, but not be limited to:~~

~~Elementary Level Inappropriate Dress~~

1. ~~Improperly fitting clothing; baggy pants, oversized shirts, elongated armholes, overly tight garments, and clothes that improperly expose body parts;~~
2. ~~Tops that are strapless or backless, that have spaghetti straps, or low cut necklines;~~
3. ~~Shorts and skirts that are short enough to be distracting;~~
4. ~~Makeup and artificial nails;~~
5. ~~Gang-associated clothing or colors; and~~
6. ~~Hats or caps worn inside the building (except for religious requirements).~~

~~Middle School / High School~~

~~Examples of inappropriate dress at the middle and high school levels shall include, but not be limited to:~~

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1. ~~Improperly fitting clothing; baggy pants, overly tight clothes, or clothes that improperly expose body parts;~~
2. ~~Halter tops, tank tops, bare midriffs, low cut necklines, strapless or backless tops, spaghetti straps, sheer or see-through clothing;~~
3. ~~Skirts or shorts that are short enough to be distracting,~~
4. ~~Boxer shorts or athletic shorts worn outside of physical education;~~
5. ~~Undergarments, pajamas, or other clothing not designed to be worn as an outer garment;~~
6. ~~Gang-associated clothing or colors; and~~
7. ~~Hats or caps worn inside the building (except for religious requirements).~~

~~**Procedure for Enforcement**~~

~~The principal of each campus is responsible for:~~

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1. ~~Working with campus staff, students, and parents to establish specific behavior and dress expectations for the campus;~~
2. ~~Determining and communicating strategies and methods for teaching and reinforcing dress code and other behavior expectations;~~
3. ~~Determining appropriate interventions and consequences for addressing dress code violations and other misbehaviors;~~

~~4. Monitoring and reviewing office referral data regularly and adjusting behavior support and intervention strategies as needed.~~

Extracurricular Activities

The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate dress and grooming standards established for such an activity may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor, and may be subject to other disciplinary action, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct. [See FO series]

Students may wear uniforms associated with approved campus extracurricular activities with the approval of the adult sponsor and principal.

Campus Options

Campuses may impose more prescriptive or standard dress code requirements, with review and approval by their campus advisory council and associate superintendent.

Campuses may require a formal uniform with review and approval by their campus advisory council and associate superintendent and approval by the Board. [See FNCA(LEGAL)]

Exceptions

Exceptions to these dress requirements are to be made as necessary to allow students to observe religious customs or beliefs and as necessary to accommodate medical or health needs.

Effective Date

This regulation is effective with the beginning of the ~~2004-05~~2019-20 school year.

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