

STUDENT DRESS

Preserving a beneficial learning environment and assuring the safety and well-being of all students are of primary importance to the board of directors. Districtwide student dress and grooming standards are intended to help students engage in learning and enhance school order and safety. The responsibility for dress and grooming of students generally rests with the student and their parent/guardian.

The Board recognizes that students have a right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance. Student dress will be regulated when, in the judgment of administrators, there is a reasonable expectation that:

1. A health or safety hazard will be presented by the student's dress or appearance including possible membership in a gang or hate groups;
2. Damage to school property will result from the student's dress;
3. A material and substantial disruption of the educational process will result from the students' dress or appearance; or
4. The clothing is not appropriate for a school setting as listed in the accompanying procedure.

For the purpose of this policy, a material and substantial disruption of the educational process may be found to exist when a student's conduct is inconsistent with any part of the educational mission of the school district. Prohibited conduct includes the use of lewd, sexual, drug, tobacco or alcohol-related messages or gang-related apparel.

The uniforms of nationally recognized youth organizations, and clothing worn in observance of a student's religion, are not subject to this policy.

The Superintendent will establish procedures providing guidance to students, parents and staff regarding appropriate student dress in school or while engaging in extracurricular activities. Such procedures will ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang-related apparel, or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership, or causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student will be asked, with notice to his/her parent/guardian, to make appropriate corrections and be subject to discipline if the corrections are not undertaken.

Implementation

This policy will be administered in all schools within the district with consideration given to the physical and social developmental level of students.

District dress code policy will be gender-neutral and will not restrict a student's clothing choices on the basis of gender.

Students have the right to be treated equitably. This policy 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.

Staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid applying this policy in a way that singles out or embarrasses a student in front of other students.

Periodic training for administrators will be provided to support consistent implementation. Administrators are required to ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the guidelines of this policy and procedure.

Cross Reference:

Policy 3220 Freedom of Expression

Legal Reference:

RCW 28A.320.140 Schools with special standards
WAC 392-400-225 School district rules defining misconduct

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Tahoma School District