



Office of Environmental Health & Safety
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SAFETY ALERT

No. 05-06

STUDENT DRESS CODES / UNIFORMS

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There have been several inquiries regarding the District's policy on dress codes and uniforms. As referenced in the *2004 – 2005 Parent-Student Handbook*, schools may adopt dress codes and uniform policies consistent with Article 1 of the California Constitution. It should be noted that, for safety reasons, attire commonly associated with gang membership or affiliation is not protected by the First Amendment. Therefore, wearing such attire should be restricted at schools. Site Administrators should confer with their campus police, who have expertise in gang-attire recognition, in determining appropriate colors, articles, manner of clothing, and insignia for a particular school setting.

District Dress Code:

As referenced in the Parent-Student Handbook, students are required to show proper attention to personal cleanliness, health, neatness, safety and suitability of clothing and appearance for school activities. In every case, the dress and grooming of students shall be clean, and clothing may be of any fashion, style, or design, with the exception of attire commonly associated with gang activity. In addition, hairstyles and facial hair may be any length chosen by the student. However, students shall not dress in a manner that:

- Causes actual distraction from or disturbance in any school activity or actually interferes with participation of a student in any school activity;
- Creates a hazard to the safety of the student or others; or,
- Creates a health hazard.

Uniforms:

Schools may implement a dress uniform policy provided they make provisions for participation by economically disadvantaged students. Parents must be advised of their right to "opt-out" of such a policy. Students may not be disciplined, discriminated against, or otherwise denied rights and privileges of other students, for any reason related to their parent's decision to opt-out of the uniform policy.

If you have any questions, please call the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at (213) 241-3199, School Police at (213) 625-6640, or your Local District Operations Coordinator.

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