

DoDEA Student Dress Code

A student dress code promotes not only health and safety, but also a focus on education. Learning how to follow the guidelines of a formal standard promotes self-discipline and judgment skills that better prepare students for the transition from childhood to adulthood. Use of a dress code helps to teach the art of balancing respect for the task at hand with the right to enjoy self-expression. In an effort to promote health and safety, as well as an understanding of how to demonstrate respect for the DoDEA learning environment through what we wear, all students are required to comply with the following minimum dress code standards.

Promoting Safety & Orderly Conduct

What a student wears will include:

1. Solid point-to-point coverage of the torso, waist, hips, and upper thighs:
 - Clothing is to cover the body continuously from one armpit across to the other armpit, over the torso and waist area, on down to no shorter than 8 inches above the knee cap at any time. This minimum full coverage includes during activities such as sitting, bending, or stretching.
 - Sleeveless garments are to have at least a 2-inch strap secured atop each shoulder, at all times.
 - See-through or mesh garments may only be worn with solid clothing underneath that meets the minimum coverage requirements of the dress code.
 - Age-appropriate use of underwear, which is reasonably concealed from view.
2. Footwear worn at all times that is safe and appropriate to the activity. Unsafe footwear includes loose fitting or not secured to the foot, floppy or at risk of catching on things, soles too smooth to grip polished floors, or heels too high and/or thin to provide stable ankle support.
3. Full view of the head and face and ears while inside the building, so may not include sunglasses, masks, hats, caps, the hood up on a hoodie, or head scarves, unless permitted as an approved exception, such as an expression of religious faith or a medical or disability accommodation.
4. Clothing and accessories that do not physically endanger the safety of students or staff.
5. Specialized attire that deviates from this code when necessary for certain specialized activities, such as sports uniforms or safety gear. Loose clothes or hair may be subject to use of restraints during certain activities to reduce risk of injury.
6. Apparel, jewelry, accessories, tattoos, or grooming styles that do not, by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark or any other identifiable attribute, denote membership in a street gang associated with criminal behaviors.

Promoting Respect for the Learning Environment

In addition, clothing will not:

7. Depict, imply, advertise, or advocate: illegal, violent, or lewd conduct; weapons; smoking; use of alcohol, marijuana, or controlled substances; and vulgar or obscene language or images.
8. State, imply, or depict hateful or discriminatory speech or imagery targeting groups based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or other protected class.
9. Expose underwear or have rips or tears located higher than 8 inches above the top of the kneecap, even if worn over colored tights or other body covering garment.
10. Be made of stretch fabric so tight and body-conforming, or of a fabric so lightweight and thin, that it clings to a student's private body parts in revealing ways that are inappropriate to a learning environment (e.g., "like it was painted on"), especially if worn without undergarments.
11. Include attire not commonly found in a school environment, such as costumes, underwear worn as outerwear, pajamas, Ghillie suits, or other such unusual styles, unless granted prior permission.