

## ELEMENTARY DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY

### **Purpose:**

The Board recognizes its paramount obligation to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the students who attend its schools. The Board further recognizes its responsibility to maintain a positive learning environment in the schools under its jurisdiction and to minimize the opportunity for distraction and/or disruption. The Board believes that a dress policy will address the issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of the students attending its schools and will further aid in the maintenance of a positive learning environment.

### **Authority:**

Although the School Code does not require that the reasons or justification be stated by any local Board of School Directors, the reasons for adoption of this policy include, but are not limited to:

1. Increase school safety.
2. Promotion of a positive work ethic.
3. Promotion of civility and respect.
4. Avoidance of peer pressure regarding dress.
5. Decrease the distractions of teasing, bullying, hazing, or other harassment.
6. Identification of nonresident students.
7. Reduction of cost of clothing for students.

### **Delegation of Responsibility:**

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy, which designates the building principal to monitor student dress and grooming in his/her building and enforce school rules concerning dress and grooming in accordance with the district's discipline policy. School administrators have the final responsibility for interpretation and enforcement. School administrators may use their discretion to designate specific days that permit students to wear other types of clothing.

### **Applicability:**

All students will be subject to this dress policy. All students must report to school on a daily basis attired in compliance with the provisions of this dress policy. There is to be no changing of clothes in school or on any school property prior to the beginning of the school day, or at the end of the school day, unless it is for physical education, sports teams, extracurricular activities, or as authorized by the building administrator. The dress policy shall be in effect during the regular school year, during regular school hours, and at any school-sponsored event during regular school hours.

### **The following dress and grooming guidelines apply to all students in grades K-5:**

The Blue Mountain Elementary Schools encourage its students to wear clothing that is clean, neat and of appropriate length for an academic environment. The following types of clothing are banned:

- Vulgar, offensive messages. Clothing that is offensive to staff and fellow students. Clothing that contains messages that are vulgar, offensive, obscene or libelous; that denigrate others on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; that promote alcohol or drug use or violence; or that are otherwise contrary to the school's educational mission.
- Clothing that presents a safety hazard. Students may not wear any apparel that could pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the school community. No chains, spiked or choke collars may be worn or carried at any time; this includes wallet chains, etc.
- Hats, caps, bandannas and similar headwear are not to be worn in district buildings except for medical or religious purposes with administrative approval.
- Brief and/or revealing clothing. Students must recognize that brief and/or revealing clothing is not appropriate apparel in school. The following guidelines on brief clothing are examples and do not cover all situations. Students shall not wear tank tops, halter tops, garments with spaghetti straps or strapless garments. Garments that are "see-through", cut low, or expose one's midriff are not acceptable. Sleeveless garments must extend to the end of the shoulders and fit closely under the arms. Skirts and shorts must not be shorter than the student's fingertips when his/her arms are held at his/her side.

- Undergarments must not be visible.
- Sagging Pants. Students shall not wear pants or shorts that when fastened sag or fit below the waist. All pants and shorts must fit around the waist and be properly fastened.
- Excessive length or baggy clothing (includes but is not limited to trench coats) is not permitted. Unless there are heating problems, all jackets/coats must be kept in lockers and not worn during the school day.
- Shoes should be safe and appropriate for an active child. Flip flops, slippers, backless shoes and Heelies or other sneakers with wheels are not permitted.