

# Morgan Hill USD

## Board Policy

### Dress And Grooming

BP 5132

#### Students

The Governing Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to wear clothing that is suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students shall not wear clothing that presents a health or safety hazard or ~~is likely to cause~~causes a substantial disruption to the educational program.

(cf. 4119.22/4219.22/4319.22 - Dress and Grooming)

District and school rules pertaining to student attire shall be included in student handbooks, may be posted in school offices and classrooms, and may be periodically reviewed with all students as necessary.

Students shall not be prohibited from dressing in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression or with their religious or cultural observance.

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

In addition, the dress code shall not discriminate against students based on hair texture and protective hairstyles, including, but not limited to, braids, locks, and twists. (Education Code 212.1)

The principal or designee is authorized to enforce this policy and shall inform any student who does not reasonably conform to the dress code. The dress code shall not be enforced in a manner that discriminates against a particular viewpoint or results in a disproportionate application of the dress code based on students' gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, household income, or body type or size.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

School administrators, teachers, and other staff shall be notified of appropriate and equitable enforcement of the dress code.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

When practical, students shall not be directed to correct a dress code violation during instructional time or in front of other students.

Repeated violations or refusal to comply with the district's dress ~~policy and schools dress codes~~code may result in disciplinary action.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

#### ~~Disruptive Clothing and Gang-Related Apparel~~

The principal, staff, and parents/guardians at a school may establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing ~~apparel~~gang-related apparel when there is evidence of a gang presence that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school's activities. ~~This includes gang related apparel, images suggesting violent behavior, or other clothing~~Such a proposed dress code shall be presented to the Board, which shall approve the plan upon determining that ~~it could be reasonably determined as offensive.~~it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the school environment. The dress code policy may be included in the school's comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 35183)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

When determining specific items of clothing that may be defined as gang apparel, the school shall ensure that the determination is free from bias based on race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or other protected characteristics.

#### Uniforms

The Board may approve a school-initiated dress code requiring students at the school to wear a school uniform whenever the Board determines that such a dress code will promote student achievement, a positive school climate, and/or student safety.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures whereby parents/guardians may choose to have their children exempted from the school uniform policy. Students shall not be penalized academically, otherwise discriminated against, or denied attendance to school if their parents/guardians so decide. (Education Code 35183)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that resources are identified to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining uniforms. (Education Code 35183)

Legal Reference:

## EDUCATION CODE

### 212.1 Nondiscrimination based on race or ethnicity

#### 220 Nondiscrimination

32281 School safety plans

35183 School dress codes; uniforms

35183.5 Sun-protective clothing

48907 Student exercise of free expression

49066 Grades; effect of physical education class apparel

## COURT DECISIONS

Jacobs v. Clark County School District, (2008) 26 F. 3d 419

Harper v. Poway Unified School District, (2006) 445 App. 3d 166

Marvin H. Jeglin et al v. San Jacinto Unified School District et al, (C.D. Cal. 1993)  
827 F.Supp. 1459

Arcadia Unified School District v. California Department of Education, (1992) 2 Cal. 4th 251

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, (1988) 108 S. Ct. 562

Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, (1969) 393 U.S. 503

## Policy MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: August 6, 2019      Morgan Hill, California