

STUDENTS: CONDUCT

STUDENT DRESS CODE

I. PURPOSE

- A. THE STUDENT DRESS CODE IS INTENDED TO OUTLINE ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS FOR STUDENT DRESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY AND DURING OTHER SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE A SAFE AND ORDERLY ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CONDUCTIVE TO LEARNING.
- B. THE STUDENT DRESS CODE SHALL APPLY TO ALL STUDENTS AT ALL TIMES ON ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) PROPERTY, INCLUDING IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS; ON SCHOOL BUSES AND OTHER SCHOOL VEHICLES; AND AT ALL SCHOOL, SCHOOL-RELATED, BOARD-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE HELD ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. *ATTIRE* – ARTICLES OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CLOTHING, HEADWEAR, JEWELRY, BOOKBAGS, OR BODY ART.
- B. *GANG* – “CRIMINAL GANG” MEANS A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION OF THREE OR MORE PERSONS WHOSE MEMBERS:
 - 1. INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY ENGAGE IN A PATTERN OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.
 - 2. HAVE AS ONE OF THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OR ACTIVITIES THE COMMISSION OF ONE OR MORE UNDERLYING CRIMES, INCLUDING ACTS BY JUVENILES THAT WOULD BE UNDERLYING CRIMES IF COMMITTED BY ADULTS.
 - 3. HAVE IN COMMON AN OVERT OR COVERT ORGANIZATIONAL OR COMMAND STRUCTURE.
- C. *HEADWEAR* – ANY ARTICLE WORN ON THE HEAD INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, HATS, SCARVES, SUNGLASSES, BANDANAS, HOODS, OR VISORS.

- D. *PARENT* - THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR PERSON ACTING IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN.
- E. *SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITY* – MEANS ANY ACTIVITY PLANNED AT SCHOOL AND SUPERVISED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

III. STANDARDS

- A. STUDENTS WILL WEAR ATTIRE AND GROOM THEMSELVES IN A MANNER THAT SUPPORTS A HEALTHY AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.
- B. STUDENTS WILL NOT WEAR ATTIRE THAT IS DISRUPTIVE TO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, THAT PROMOTES ILLEGAL OR HARMFUL ACTIVITIES, OR THAT COULD ENDANGER THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE STUDENT OR OTHER STUDENTS, WHICH INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO THAT WHICH:
 - 1. DEPICTS MESSAGES THAT ARE LEWD, VULGAR, OBSCENE, PLAINLY OFFENSIVE, VIOLENT, SEXUALLY EXPLICIT OR THAT REFERENCE ITEMS THAT ARE ILLEGAL IN GENERAL OR ILLEGAL SPECIFICALLY FOR UNDERAGE STUDENTS;
 - 2. PROMOTES USE OF TOBACCO, DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR OTHER ILLEGAL OR HARMFUL PRODUCTS;
 - 3. CONTAINS SEXUALLY SUGGESTIVE MESSAGES;
 - 4. DEPICTS GANG AFFILIATION;
 - 5. CAUSES OR IS LIKELY TO CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL OR MATERIAL DISRUPTION TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR THE ORDERLY AND SAFE OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL OR AT SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES;
 - 6. CONTAINS RUDE, DISRESPECTFUL, OR DISCOURTEOUS EXPRESSIONS INCONSISTENT WITH CIVIL DISCOURSE AND BEHAVIOR.
- C. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ITEMS ARE NOT PERMITTED, EXCEPT IN INDIVIDUAL CASES AS APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL:
 - 1. BARE FEET;
 - 2. HEADWEAR, EXCEPT AS WORN FOR MEDICAL REASONS OR AS A LEGITIMATE EXPRESSION OF A STUDENT'S RELIGIOUS PRACTICE AND FAITH.

IV. COMPLIANCE

THE PRINCIPAL OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS ARE INFORMED OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE STUDENT DRESS ANNUALLY AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR AND WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

V. VIOLATIONS

- A. IF ANY STAFF MEMBER BELIEVES THAT A STUDENT IS IN VIOLATION OF THE STUDENT DRESS CODE, THAT STAFF MEMBER WILL REFER THE STUDENT TO AN ADMINISTRATOR WHO WILL INTERVENE AND TAKE APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION.
- B. IF IT IS DETERMINED BY AN ADMINISTRATOR THAT A VIOLATION EXISTS, THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY:
 - 1. REQUIRE THE STUDENT TO REMOVE OR CHANGE THE ATTIRE AND TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO NOTIFY THE STUDENT'S PARENT OF THE VIOLATION.
 - 2. TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.

LEGAL REFERENCES: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-306, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT; STATE CODE OF DISCIPLINE*
COMAR 13.A.08.01.11, *DISCIPLINARY ACTION*

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500, *CONDUCT*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, *DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5551, *GANG ACTIVITY, AND SIMILAR DESTRUCTIVE OR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5580, *BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5590, *STUDENTS' EXPRESSIONS*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5600, *STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS*

RULE
APPROVED: _____

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS