

Fall River Joint Unified School District  
Policy 5132

STUDENTS

Dress and Grooming

The Governing Board encourages students to dress appropriately for school, noting that when they are neatly attired and take pride in their appearance there is less misbehavior and a better learning atmosphere is created. The Board does not wish to dictate to students and parents as to what clothing may or may not be worn, but they expect the administration and teaching staff to use all reasonable methods in gaining student cooperation in this matter.

According to the Administrative Code Title 5, Section 302:

“A pupil who goes to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness of dress, may be sent home to be properly prepared for school, or shall be required to prepare himself for the school room before entering.”

In addition, the Board requires that a student’s clothing shall not be unsafe either for the student or those around the student (e.g., long, loose sleeves or hair while the student is operating power machinery or working with open fire), nor be disruptive of school operations and the educational process in general, nor be contrary to law.

No restrictions on freedom of dress and adornment shall be imposed by the District which may violate a student’s civil rights, which impose particular codes or morality or religious tenets, which attempt to dictate style or taste, or which do not fall within the direct or implied powers of the Board and Administration.

The Board does prohibit introduction to the school site of any dress or appurtenance which substantially interrupts or interferes with the educational process or which threatens the security or well-being of students or staff. The Board insists that no student has a right to dress or behave in such a manner that diminishes the learning opportunities of other students or that jeopardizes their physical safety.

Legal Reference  
Education Code  
48907 Student exercise of free expression

Policy adopted: 12/3/79  
Policy reviewed: 5/4/88  
Policy Revised: 12/9/92

## Regulation 5132

### STUDENTS

#### Dress and Grooming

In cooperation with teachers, students and parents/guardians, the principal or designee shall establish school rules governing student dress and grooming which are consistent with district policy and regulations. These school dress code guidelines shall be regularly reviewed.

The following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. Fully enclosed shoes may be required in classes for safety reasons such as in PE, lab classes, shop classes, etc.
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
3. Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn in classrooms.
4. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fish-net fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.
5. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed.

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066)

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

#### **Gang-Related Apparel**

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus.

(Education Code 35294.1)

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received.

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Regulation revised: 3-2-05