

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

504 STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards.

II. DEFINITIONS

“Gang,” as defined in this policy, means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. “Pattern of gang activity” means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools encourage students to take pride in their attire at school. The dress and appearance of students becomes the concern of the school if it causes disruption of the educational program or is offensive or inappropriate to others. Students shall dress in a manner that takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health and welfare of others and does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment. This dress code is applicable to all students and shall be applied equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, cultural observance, body type/size, and personal style.
- B. It is the policy of this school district to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
- C. The following guidelines apply to students during regular school hours. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Clothing appropriate for the weather.
 - 2. Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
 - 3. Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).
 - 4. Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately mid-thighs, applicable to front and back. See-through or mesh garment must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the requirements of the dress code.

- D. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Clothing that is not in keeping with community standards.
 2. Clothing bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar, or obscene.
 3. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.
 4. Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined by Minnesota Department of Human Rights and in policy 413.
 5. Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.
 6. Any item of apparel deemed disruptive to the educational process by an administrator.

Students who are in violation of this policy will be asked to change out of the offensive clothing. Other options may include sending the student home, wearing PE clothes, or other disciplinary actions. If a student questions the appropriateness of clothing, they should check in at the office with a principal or counselor before the start of the school day.

The intention of this policy is not to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, or do not advocate violence or harassment against others.

PROCEDURES

- A. When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. Parents/legal guardians will be notified.
- B. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/legal guardians.
- C. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval.

Legal References: U. S. Const., amend. I
Minn. Stat. § 124D.792 (Graduation Ceremonies; Tribal Regalia and Objects of Cultural Significance)
Minn. Stat. § 363A.03, Subd. 36a (Definitions)
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist., 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)
Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist., 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)
Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist., 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
B.H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist., 725 F.3d 293 (3rd Cir. 2013)
D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafon, 217 Fed. Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 2007)
Hardwick v. Heyward, 711 F.3d 426 (4th Cir. 2013)
Madrid v. Anthony, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)
McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3, 804 F.Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ., 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D. N.C. 1999)
Olesen v. Bd. of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228, 676 F.Supp. 820 (N.D. Ill. 1987)
Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Cross References: [Policy 413 \(Harassment and Violence\)](#)
[Policy 506 \(Student Discipline\)](#)

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