

## Policy 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 hygiene that maintain a safe and healthy learning environment, support students in developing their own positive self-image, and treat all students equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, body type/size, and personal/cultural expression.

### II. General Statement of Policy

- A. This policy applies to all students at Bluffview (PK-8).
- B. All students and staff shall understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal distractions and biases without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- C. Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes but is not limited to kneeling or bending over to check attire fit, measuring straps or skirt length, asking students to account for their attire in the classroom, and directing students to correct a dress code violation during instructional time.

### III. Dress and Appearance

- A. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing that encourages movement.
  - a. Families should label clothing such as boots, coats, backpacks, etc. with their children's names.
  - b. Families should help ensure student comfort by selecting clothing appropriate for that day's weather and/or activities.
- B. Weather
  - a. During Winter months, students will need a coat, boots, snow pants, mittens, and head covering to ensure safety during outdoor school activities.
  - b. Students will go outside each day when the temperature and wind chill are above zero degrees Fahrenheit, and may go outside when temperatures and windchill are considered safe to do so.
- C. Students Must Wear\*
  - a. Opaque Shirt
  - b. Bottom: pants/sweatpants/shorts/skirt/dress/leggings
  - c. Shoes; activity-specific shoe requirements are permitted (For example: PE)\*\*

\*Requirements for attire as part of the curriculum (for example: professionalism, public speaking, job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on body type, gender, or culturally specific attire. Please see the family handbook for classroom specific expectations.

D. Students May Not Wear

- a. Violent language or images.
- b. Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or an illegal item or activity) or the use of the same.
- c. Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- d. Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- e. Visible underwear. Visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation.
- f. Bathing suits, unless required for a specific activity.
- g. Helmets or headgear that obscures the face (except as a religious observance).
- h. Any accessory that disrupts the learning environment or poses a safety threat.

IV. Dress Code Enforcement and Interventions

- A. Students may be asked to modify their appearance when hygiene or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities or poses a threat to the health or emotional and/or physical safety of the student or others.
- B. Students should never be removed from a classroom or lose class time solely as a result of a dress code violation.
- C. Unless necessary for physical safety (e.g., weather), students should never be forced to wear extra school clothing (that isn't their own) when they are in violation.

**Legal References:** U. S. Const., amend. I  
*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (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)

**Other References:** Oregon NOW, Model Student Dress Code (February 2016)  
Winona Area Public Schools, Policy 504 Student Dress and Appearance