



Administrative Regulation 5102

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Responsible Office: Office of School Leadership

PURPOSE

This administrative regulation establishes the student dress code in the schools of the Washoe County School District ("District" or "WCSD") with the intent of providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students in which the focus is on learning; and to provide students with a clear understanding of the District's expectations with regard to dress.

REGULATION

1. The primary responsibility for dress rests with students and their families (parent/guardian).
2. The District reserves the right to establish and enforce a student dress code with expectations and limitations for students that address what clothing may be worn and how students may wear that clothing. This authority permits school officials to enforce student dress requirements, and request that students change their attire to conform to the District's dress code.
3. The requirements of the dress code are not intended to silence expressive conduct, but instead, constitute an attempt to maintain a productive, safe, learning environment.
4. General Provisions
 - a. The school principal or designated administrator retains the authority and discretion to determine if a student's clothing meets with the provisions of this regulation.
 - b. Exceptions to the dress code shall be considered by the school principal for religious or medical reasons, or for designated free dress days such as spirit days.
 - c. For schools with a site-based student uniform policy (also known as standard student attire), the dress code shall remain in effect but may be adjusted based on allowable clothing options. (See Administrative Regulation 5106, Student Uniforms, for additional information)
 - d. The student dress code shall be in effect on District property, to include on District transportation, when school is in session, and when representing a school or the District as a participant at a District-sanctioned activity.
 - i. With the approval of the principal or designee, school teams/organizations or departments which sponsor off-campus

activities may adopt special rules regarding dress and grooming to be followed when the group represents the school.

5. Dress Code

- a. The dress or grooming of students must not present potential health or safety problems. Clothing should fit so that it does not create a health or safety issue.
- b. Clothing shall not contain unprotected speech including, but not limited to: obscene, vulgar, or profane language or illustrations; and, nothing that promotes an illegal activity, including underage drinking, illegal drug use (to include marijuana), domestic abuse, gang membership, battery, assault, or any other civil or criminal conduct which would violate state or federal law.
- c. Clothing must cover the body from the chest/breasts to below the buttocks. This includes all private/intimate parts of the body, to include the midriff.
 - i. Shirts that expose the shoulders, tank tops, and thin or "spaghetti" straps that adhere to the other provisions of this dress code are allowed.
 - ii. Undergarments shall not be intentionally exposed (e.g., bras, boxer shorts).
 - iii. Shorts, skirts, skorts, and dresses must be an appropriate length, extending to the student's mid-thigh.
 - iv. Pants/bottoms with rips, tears, or mesh are acceptable but shall not reveal or expose a private/intimate part of the body nor cause a safety concern (e.g., a tripping hazard because the hem of the pant leg drags on the floor).
 - v. Nylons/panty hose/tights may be worn as an undergarment under clothing but not alone as pants/bottoms.
 - vi. Leggings, to include yoga pants, are acceptable worn as pants.
- d. Allowable head coverings are those which are worn for medical or religious (e.g. hijab, yarmulke, turban) reasons. Head coverings which are neither religious nor medical in nature are not permitted to be worn inside a school building during school hours (e.g., sweatshirt hoods, ball caps, cowboy hats).
- e. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building during school hours except for medical reasons, to include prescription transition lenses.

- f. Proper footwear must be worn at all times and shall not pose a potential health or safety problem. Slippers and similar soft soled shoes are prohibited. For safety reasons, students are encouraged to wear shoes with a strap around the back of the foot.
 - g. Unless an exception has been provided by the school administrator (i.e. for spirit days, etc.), wearing pajamas, lounge wear, bath robes, or blankets is prohibited.
 - h. The District's dress code does not extend to hair style or hair color.
 - i. Jewelry and accessories with extended spikes or studs or which are of sufficient weight or length as to risk injury to the wearer or another are prohibited.
 - j. Gang attire and accessories. In accordance with state law, items that have been identified as gang-related are prohibited. WCSD school police, in conjunction with local law enforcement and other agencies, shall determine current prohibitions related to gang appearance, dress, accessories, and activities and shall inform school administrators as needed. Prohibited items may include but are not limited to: altered insignias or graffiti; jewelry or belt buckles symbolizing any gangs; and Graffiti in or on personal belongings symbolizing any identified gang activity.
 - k. Students are permitted to wear coats, jackets, zippered sweatshirts, and other outerwear.
6. Nothing in this administrative regulation shall be construed to restrict or ban a student's wearing of religious clothing and/or accessories, with the exception of unprotected speech (see below).
- a. Parents having religious-based concerns regarding the dress code or the site-based uniform policy are encouraged to discuss them with the principal. Any appeals of the principal's decision shall follow the District's public complaint process.
7. Violations
- a. A student who is found to be in violation of the school dress code may face consequences based on the District Behavior Matrix. Potential consequences include, but are not limited to:
 - i. First offense – A parent/guardian shall be notified; and, the student must change clothing.

- ii. Second offense – A parent/guardian shall be notified; and, the student must change clothing and may receive a loss of privilege.
 - iii. Third offense – A parent/guardian shall be notified; and, the student must change clothing, may receive a loss of privilege, and may receive focused detention/school beautification.
 - b. In all cases, a parent/guardian and student shall be informed of the consequences of subsequent violations.
8. As used in this regulation, the term unprotected speech may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: obscenity, fighting words, defamation (includes libel, slander), child pornography, perjury, blackmail, incitement to imminent lawless action, true threats, solicitations to commit crimes, and speech which is vulgar or profane. Unprotected speech may also include any article of apparel, or publication that displays obscene words, pictures, or designs; speech which has a message that is pro-alcohol, tobacco and/or controlled or illegal substances; publications, clothing, or items that symbolize gang-related behavior; speech that does not comply with the District’s policies and regulations, interferes with the educational process and/or poses a threat to the safety of students or other individuals.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District’s Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5100, Student Behavior
 - b. Board Policy 5105, Student Uniforms – Adoption of a Site-Based Policy
 - c. Board Policy 5150, Student Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Expression, and Right to Assemble
2. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to include:
 - a. Chapter 392, Pupils.

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the associated policy.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this document. The Board of Trustees and

Superintendent shall receive notification of the adoption and/or revision of any associated administrative regulations.

REVIEW HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
5/13/2019	1.0	Adopted to replace and codify language found in Parent/Student Handbook and OSP-P003 (Deleted)
7/17/2019	1.1	Revised to clarify language related to bare shoulders, tank tops, and spaghetti straps