

SCHOOL-WIDE DRESS CODE

This regulation has been established to address the responsibilities of students with regard to standards of grooming and dress consistent with the educational mission of the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) as set forth in BP 5132.

Definitions

Gang-related apparel is defined as any item of clothing, accessory, jewelry, or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute, denotes membership in or affiliation with gangs.

Minimum Standards of Student Grooming and Dress

Students shall be required to maintain a level of personal hygiene necessary to ensure a healthful school environment and to refrain from any mode of dress which has a reasonable expectation of contributing to any disruption of school functions. No student is permitted to attend schools if his/her appearance is disruptive to the operation and administration of the educational process.

All students shall maintain the following minimum standard of dress at all times

- Shoes shall be worn at all times. No flip-flops or beach footwear shall be worn.
- Sandals must have heel straps.
- Midriffs shall be completely covered.
- Appropriate undergarments shall be worn, and shall not be visible.
- Strapless garments shall be worn with a jacket.
- Tank-tops shall be worn with a jacket.
- Appropriate shorts, as determined by the MCOE site administrator, may be worn.

- See-through or fishnet fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited
- No professional team apparel of any sports can be worn.
- With prior MCOE administrator permission, collegiate apparel may be worn on specified occasions to support college awareness or for motivational purposes.
- Gym shorts may not be worn in classes other than physical education.
- Plain white collarless tee shirts are prohibited.
- Pants or shorts shall be worn at the waist at all times.
- Oversized baggy/saggy pants, short shorts, or swimming trunks will not be allowed. All pants must fit at the waist and not require a belt to hold them in place.
- Hats, caps, and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors.
- Sunglasses shall not be worn indoors.
- Bandanas of any color shall not be worn.

All students shall maintain the following minimum standard of grooming at all times:

- Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed.
- Hair may not be sprayed by any coloring that would drip when wet.

Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, or sexually suggestive, or which advocate racial, ethnic, gender, or religious prejudice or the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or violence are not permitted.

Thick silver necklaces, studded or metal belts or bracelets that can be used as weapons are not permitted.

The following clothing or ornamentation that does any of the following is prohibited:

- Displays or advertises substances illegal for minors or adults.
- Displays suggestive phrases, designs, markings, or profanities.
- Advocates, promotes, or suggests illegal activities.
- Displays or suggests gang-related functioning or activity.

Students who violate this dress code may be sent home or remain in the office until a change of apparel can be made.

Gang-Related Apparel

Clothing articles that include, but are not limited to, gloves, cut-off pants with knee-high socks, unstrapped bib overalls, multi-colored shoe strings or wristbands, excessively long belts, "In Memory of ..." shirts or any other clothing or accessories which are commonly recognized as being related to a gang or group which promotes others to act violently or be intimidated by fear of violence shall not be worn on the campus or at any MCOE school that prohibit such apparel in their dress code.

Gang-related apparel shall not be considered a protected form of speech [Education Code (E.C.) 48950].

Responsibilities of MCOE Site Administrators

The provisions of any school-wide dress code that prohibit students from wearing gang-related apparel shall be included in the comprehensive school safety plan [E.C. 35183].

MCOE site administrators shall be responsible for notifying parents/guardians of the provisions of this regulation.

MCOE site administrators shall be responsible for enforcement of this regulation, and shall be the final judge as to the appropriateness, neatness, and cleanliness of the wearing apparel, and whether or not the apparel is disruptive, unsafe, and/or in violation of the dress code.

Questions or Concerns Regarding the Student Dress Code

Parents/guardians or students who have specific questions about a garment's appropriateness should consult the MCOE site administrator.