

It is the desire and intent of St. Maries Joint School District No. 41's Board of Trustees to create a safe and positive environment in District schools that is conducive to learning and free of potential distraction or danger. It is the belief of the School District that schools are in the business of learning which necessitates discipline by the individual student in all areas such as language, behavior, attendance, and dress.

Students are reminded that their appearance (clothing and grooming) significantly affects the way others respond to them. Matters of dress remain the primary responsibility of students, in consultation with their parents or legal guardians. Nevertheless, since it is the duty of the Board of Trustees to provide an educational atmosphere conducive to learning, minimizing disruptions or distractions, and to protect the health, safety, and morals of students, all students will adhere to the following certain minimum standards of dress when the student is on any school premises or at any school-sponsored activity, regardless of location.

In general, students are not to wear or carry items of apparel (clothing, accessories, cosmetics, tattoos, jewelry – including body piercings) which depict or allude to, by picture, symbol, or words, drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, gangs, violence, sexually explicit, lewd, indecent or offensive material, or illegal acts. The wearing, using, or displaying of any gang clothing or attire (based upon the principal/designee's reasonable belief that gangs may be present in a school), jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, codes, or other things which evidence membership or affiliation in any gang is prohibited on any school premises or at any school-sponsored activity, regardless of location.

HEAD COVERINGS, CLOTHING, JEWELRY, AND FOOTWEAR

Head coverings, including hats, visors, or bandanas, are inappropriate in the school buildings during regular school hours, unless the principal or designee specifically makes an exception to the policy.

Student dress that becomes a distraction to an orderly educational environment will be referred to the discretion of the principal.

No spiked jewelry or chains that can be used for a weapon are allowed.

Footwear must be worn at all times and must be age-appropriate for activities and suitable for emergencies.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The District will seek to accommodate cultural, religious, and ethnic differences in dress and grooming, provided such dress or grooming does not materially or substantially disrupt the educational process of the school or create a health or safety hazard for students, staff, or others. No student shall be required to modify their natural head or

facial hair, such as by shaving or straightening through the application of heat or chemicals.

INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

The building principal/designee shall use reasonable discretion in interpreting and implementing the provisions of this policy. If a conflict arises in the interpretation of this policy, the interpretation of the building principal/designee shall be final. Principals, administrators, and teachers shall use reasonable discretion in enforcing this policy.

ENFORCEMENT

Teachers and administrators may deny class entrance to students dressed or otherwise adorned inappropriately until arrangements may be made for their proper attire. All time missed from classes for failure to adhere to this policy will be deemed unexcused absences. Parents or guardians will be notified each time a student is asked to leave school because of inappropriate attire. Students who are insubordinate or refuse to change the improper attire, or who repeat dress code violations, shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion, depending on all the facts and circumstances, for violating the standards of student conduct.

Policy Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:

Idaho Code §33-506	Organization and Government of Board of Trustees
Idaho Code §33-512(6)	Governance of Schools

Policy History:

Adopted:	08/20/1975
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