

Student Dress

Preserving a beneficial learning environment and assuring the safety and well-being of all students are primary concerns of the Washougal Board of Directors.

Students' choices in matters of dress should be made in consultation with their parents.

Student dress will only be regulated when, in the judgment of school administrators, there is a reasonable expectation that:

1. A health or safety hazard will be presented by the student's dress or appearance including possible membership in a gang or hate groups;
2. Damage to school property will result from the student's dress; or
3. A material and substantial disruption of the educational process will result from the students' dress or appearance.

For the purpose of this policy, a material and substantial disruption of the educational process may be found to exist when a student's conduct is inconsistent with any part of the educational mission of the school district. Prohibited conduct includes the use of lewd, sexual, drug, tobacco or alcohol-related messages, or gang-related apparel.

The uniforms of nationally recognized youth organizations, and clothing worn in observance of a student's religion, are not subject to this policy.

The superintendent, or his/her designee, will establish procedures providing guidance to students, parents, and staff regarding appropriate student dress in school or while engaging in extracurricular activities. Such procedures will ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang-related apparel, or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership, or causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student will be asked, with notice to his or her parents, to make appropriate corrections and be subject to discipline if the corrections are not undertaken.

Cross References: Board Policy 3220

Freedom of Expression

Legal References: [RCW 28A.320.140](#)

Schools with Special standards – Dress codes

[WAC 392-400-215](#)
[392-400-225](#)

Student Rights

School district rules defining misconduct
– Distribution of Rules

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Washougal School District
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Policy 3224, p. 1

Student Dress

The student and parent may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that the student's dress and grooming does not:

- A. Lead school officials to reasonably believe that such dress or grooming will disrupt, interfere with, disturb, or detract from the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives;
- B. Create a health or other hazard to the student's safety or to the safety of others;
- C. Create an atmosphere in which a student, staff, or other person's well-being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture or threat of violence; or
- D. Imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design or emblem upon any school or personal property or one's person.

The principal, in connection with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity if the principal reasonably believes that the student's dress or grooming:

- A. Creates a hazard to the student's safety or to the safety of others; or
- B. Will prevent, interfere with or adversely affect the purpose, direction, or effort required for the activity to achieve its goals.

If the student's dress or grooming is objectionable under these provisions, the principal will request that the student make appropriate corrections. If the student refuses, the principal will notify the parent, if reasonably possible, and request that the parent make the necessary correction. If both the student and parent refuse, the principal will take appropriate disciplinary action. Students may be suspended, if circumstances so warrant. Students who violate provisions of the dress code relating to extracurricular activities may be removed or excluded from the extracurricular activity for such period as the principal may determine. All students will be accorded due process safeguards before any corrective action may be taken.

Students identified as being gang involved, influenced or affiliated will be provided assistance and/or programs which discourage gang involvement or affiliation, enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in school or other positive activities and promote membership in authorized school organizations.