

DRESS CODE

STUDENT APPEARANCE AND DRESS CODE

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the Madison County District Schools primarily rests with parents and the students. Some student apparel, however, may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate to wear in other settings. To assist parents and students in making appropriate fashion and grooming decisions for school, the School Board has established the following **minimal** guidelines for the appearance and dress of students (*Florida Statutes 1001.43(1)(b) and 1006.07(2)(d)*).

The standards of appearance for students shall ensure that the students are clean, neat, and properly dressed. Students shall maintain standards of dress and personal grooming which are appropriate for the academic environment. It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that the dress and/or appearance of any student shall not be extreme, nor to the point of creating a disturbance that is hazardous to himself/herself, others, or to school property, even if the specific case is not covered by the information below. **The principal or principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel/appearance conforms to the dress code.**

RIGHTS

Students have the right to dress comfortably in clothing that is appropriate for school, is not dangerous to health and safety, and does not create a substantial and material disruption to the school.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. HEAD

No sunglasses, hats, caps, visors, hoods or other head coverings (i.e. bonnets, wave caps, scarfs, etc.) may be worn inside the buildings, except with administrative permission (i.e. medical necessity, religious, school related events, outdoor activities). All hoodies must remain off the head while inside the buildings. No bandanas may be worn at any time. **Hats must remain in students' backpacks at all times unless participating in an outdoor activity.**

2. UPPER GARMENTS

- Students may wear the following upper garments: shirts with or without collars, t-shirts or button-down shirts that are any color or color pattern. These shirts may have writing or logos as long as they are deemed appropriate by school site administration. (Printed profanity or language/symbols/styles that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, gang-related or other illegal activities are prohibited.)
- Garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable for the build and stature of the student.
- Clothing exposing the torso or midriff, either front, back or sides, shall not be worn. The following items are prohibited: halter tops, tube tops, backless dresses/tops, spaghetti straps, tank tops, one-strap/one shoulder tops, and strapless tops.
- Garments may not be made of transparent or "see through" material. Note: If undergarments are visible the upper garment is not permitted.
- Necklines of all upper garments must be modest. Low cut necklines are prohibited, and the cut of garments must not expose undergarments or cleavage.
- Shirts must touch, at a minimum, the top portion of lower garments at all times.
- Garments that are offensive, distracting or inappropriate are prohibited, including, but not limited to, those with see-through materials, skintight items, pajamas, rips/tears, printed profanity, or language/symbols/styles that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, gang-related or other illegal activities.

3. LOWER GARMENTS (PREK-3RD GRADES)

- **NO rips or tears in jeans or shorts.**
- Undergarments and the buttocks **MUST** remain entirely covered even while seated.
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh.

- **Jeggings may only be worn under a top that is no shorter than mid-thigh and covers the buttocks.**
- The waistband of pants, shorts or skirts must be worn and secured between the hips and the waist.
- **Undergarments as outerwear, pajama pants, bathing suits, cheer shorts, fishnet stockings, bike shorts and spandex material bottoms are prohibited. (Examples: Leggings, tights, yoga pants, etc.)**

3. LOWER GARMENTS (4th- 8th GRADES)

- **NO rips or tears in jeans or shorts.**
- Undergarments and the buttocks **MUST** remain entirely covered even while seated.
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh.
- **Leggings and jeggings are not permitted.**
- The waistband of pants, shorts or skirts must be worn and secured between the hips and the waist.
- **Undergarments as outerwear, pajama pants, bathing suits, cheer shorts, fishnet stockings, bike shorts and spandex material bottoms are prohibited. (Examples: Leggings, tights, yoga pants, etc.)**

4. FOOTWEAR

- Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment
- Cleats, slippers, and shoes with wheels are not permitted to be worn on campus. Cleats may be worn for appropriate extracurricular sports in proper areas.
- **Grades PK-8: All footwear must be closed toe and heel. No flip flops, sandals, or “Cros” are permitted.**

5. ACCESSORIES

- Clothing, jewelry, and accessories shall not convey messages that are: crude, vulgar/profane, violent/death-oriented, gang related, sexually suggestive, promote alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
- Jewelry or accessories, to include body piercings that pose a safety concern for the student or others are prohibited. Dog collars, wallet chains, combs, large hair picks or chains that connect one part of the body to another are prohibited. Tattoos or simulated tattoos are prohibited. (FS 381.00787(1))
- Blankets should not be brought to school unless approved by school administration.
- Clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories (such as backpacks and/or purses) with decorations, symbols, mottos, slogans, signs, images, or designs which are offensive to good taste, the maintenance of good decorum or illegal are prohibited. Examples include, but are not limited to, anything that promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang identification, weapons, or lewd sexual behavior; symbols or writings that have racial (e.g. swastikas, rebel flags, etc.) or sexual connotation; or profane language.

The principal or the principal’s designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student’s apparel/appearance conforms to the dress code and hinders the education/safety of all students.

VIOLATION OF DRESS CODE per F.S. 1006.07(2)

If the principal determines that a student’s clothing does not comply with Board policy, his/her parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school, or the student may be asked to leave an after-school activity. The student may also receive disciplinary consequences for violating the school’s dress code policy. Repeated violations may result in progressively more serious consequences.

GANGS AND GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY

The MCSD will not tolerate any gang related activity on school grounds, school sponsored events, and/or on school transportation, to include dress, tattoos, bandanas (to be used as gang identifiers), graffiti, hand signals, or verbal slang. Gang related activity may include, but is not limited to, engaging in any verbal, written, or physical act, which is associated with becoming a member of a gang, being a member of a gang, or participating in gang identified rituals or behaviors on a school campus or at a school sponsored program or activity. Violations that disrupt the educational process will lead to disciplinary action. If a student is identified or qualifies as a gang member, the student may be subject to expulsion. If a student qualifies as a gang member, subsequent violations of the Code of Student Conduct may be raised to the next level (i.e., Level 1 to Level 11; Level 11 to Level 111; Level 111 to Level IV).

It is therefore the policy of the MCSD that gangs and gang activities are prohibited in Madison County Schools according to the following:

1. Gang is defined as any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal/violent acts, and having a common name or common identifying sign, colors or symbols, or the purposeful violation of any MCSD policy.
2. No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall:
 - a. Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other item that evidences or reflects membership in, or affiliation with, any gang.
 - b. Communicate either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.) to convey membership affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation.
 - c. Engage in any act that encourages or promotes interest in any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Soliciting membership in, or affiliation with, any gang
 - (2) Soliciting any person to pay for protection, or threatening any person, explicitly or implicitly, with violence or with any other illegal or prohibited act
 - (3) Painting, writing, or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, symbols, or signs, on school or personal property
 - (4) Engaging in violence, extortion, or any other illegal act or other violation of school policy
 - (5) Soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against any other person
 - (6) Engaging in the use of technology that encourages or promotes interest in any gang or gang activity

The MCSD is working in conjunction with the Madison County Sheriff's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the local police department to deter gang activity on school campuses. Any student exhibiting gang activity/characteristics as described in this section may be photographed and information will be shared with local law enforcement. A student identified as a gang member by the School Resource Officer/Deputy will be photographed and entered into the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Gang Net. ["874.03 and 874.05, Florida Statutes]