

STUDENT DRESS

POLICY:

Preserving a beneficial learning environment and assuring the safety and well-being of all students are primary concerns of the Lake Stevens School District.

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

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

- A. A health or safety hazard shall be presented by the student's dress or appearance;
- B. Damage to school property shall result from the student's dress; or
- C. 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 obscene, sexual, drug or alcohol-related messages, gang-related apparel, or other attire which is disruptive to the educational process.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures providing guidance to students and staff regarding appropriate student dress in school or while engaging in extracurricular activities. Such procedures shall 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 shall be asked to make appropriate corrections and subject to discipline if the corrections are not undertaken.

Legal References:

- WAC 180-40-215 Student rights
- WAC 180-40-225 School district rules defining misconduct

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PROCEDURES:

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

- A. lead school officials to reasonably believe that such dress or grooming shall 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. shall 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 shall request the student to make appropriate corrections. If the student refuses, the principal shall notify the parent and request that person to make the necessary correction. If both the student and parent refuse, the principal shall take appropriate corrective 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 shall be accorded due process safeguards before any corrective action may be taken.

Students identified as being gang involved, influenced, or affiliated shall 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.