

## **PESD DRESS CODE POLICY (PESD BP 5132 (a))**

The Governing Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

The expression of a student's uniqueness and individuality by means of his/her dress is sanctioned by the Board of Trustees as being consistent with stated purposes of the school. It should be recognized that any apparel, or lack thereof, which draws undue attention to the wearer tends to detract from the educational process and is, therefore, inappropriate. The dress code is not an attempt to censor student expression. Rather it is an attempt to promote good taste and good grooming as part of learning. In addition, it is recognized that the school shares with the parents a responsibility for teaching young people appropriateness of dress. It is a mark of maturity when students can freely choose apparel that demonstrates individuality without deviating from the standard appropriateness. Restrictions on freedom of student dress will be imposed whenever the mode of dress in question is:

- a. unsafe either for himself/herself or those around him/her.
- b. disruptive of school operations and the educational process in general.
- c. contrary to law and the substantial interest of the Board.

Specifically:

- No clothing, jewelry, etc., which advertises, encourages or promotes the use of illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, displays profanity, vulgarity or is sexually suggestive.
- No attire which affiliates with outside groups, organizations, or gangs. This includes, but is not limited to: brand names often times associated with gangs such as Southpole, Indigo, Anchor Blue, Nor Cal; color bandannas, gang-related initials or symbols, or gang type writing on clothing or personal belongings.
- **Blouses/Shirts:** No attire which is extremely brief, such as low-cut garments, strapless or off-the-shoulder tops, tube tops, spaghetti straps, bare midriffs exposing the mid-section while walking or standing, tank tops or muscle shirts, undershirts, spandex, see-through tops, torn outer garments, clothing that allows exposure of undergarments, etc. All blouses and shirts must be tucked.
- **Belts:** Dangerously decorated belts, Gang-affiliated belts or excessively long belts are not permitted.
- **Pants:** Pants must be worn at the waist. Pants exposing undergarments are not allowed.
- No sagging pants that exceed waist measurements by more than two inches or spandex type pants will be permitted.
- **Shorts / Skirts:** Short and skirts must be finger tip length when students are standing.
- **Hats:** Planada hats only. Hat must be worn properly, bills forward. Students may not wear hats which are altered in any manner or have inappropriate writings.
- **Shoes:** No bare feet. Shoes are required to be worn at all times. No steel-toe shoes, flip flops, strapless sandals or open toe shoes will be allowed. Gang-affiliated shoelaces are not permitted.
- Students found to be in violation of the Dress Code Policy are subject to disciplinary action.