**GUILDERLAND**

**5300.25**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**STUDENT DRESS CODE**

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up, and nails, must:

1. Be unlikely to injure people or damage property, appropriate according to this code, and not substantially disrupt or materially interfere with the educational process.

2. Recognize that extremely brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate.

3. Ensure that underwear is covered by outer clothing (visible waistbands and straps are not violations).

4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.

5. Not cover the student’s face to the extent the student is not identifiable, except for a medical or religious purpose.

6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate, harass, or discriminate against others on account of race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks, and twists), color, weight, religion, religious practice, disability/ability, creed, national origin, ethnic group, gender (including gender identity and expression), sex, sexual orientation disability/ability, or socio-economic status.

7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco nicotine products, marijuana (THC) or controlled substances or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Nothing in this policy will be construed to limit the ability of students to express their gender identity through clothing, jewelry, makeup, or nail color or styles, or to discipline students for doing so. Likewise, nothing in this policy will be construed to restrict students from wearing hairstyles as a trait historically associated with race (such as but not limited to hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks, and twists) or to discipline them for doing so.

Each Building Principal or designee is responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Enforcement of this dress codes must be approached with careful consideration and sensitivity, with the goal of supporting students in reaching their full potential, not shaming or criminalizing them, and to minimize loss of instructional time. Staff, preferably those who have a positive relationship with the student, are expected to address dress code violations with students privately, determine if there are factors impacting the student’s ability to meet the dress code, and help address these issues. Students whose appearance violate the student dress code are required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so will be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code will be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension if after restorative justice principles have been implemented the student continues to refuse to cooperate.

Ref: Education Law §11(9), (10)

Executive Law §292(37), (38)

*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist*., 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

*Appeal of Parsons*, 32 EDR 672 (1993)

Adopted: