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To subscribe, please contact:

Lin Bremer: ext. 1232, lbremer@iasb.com

Julie Niewinski: ext. 1151, jniewinski@iasb.com

Springfield Office: 217/528-9688

Lombard Office: 630/629-3776



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Sample page from the Policy Reference Manual

Each PRESS policy is dated. → May 2015 → 7:160 ← The Manual has 8 separate sections.

← Students →

Student Appearance 1

A student’s appearance, including dress and grooming, must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, and decency. Procedures for handling students who dress or groom inappropriately will be developed by the Superintendent and included in the Student Handbook.²

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25b.
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School Dist., 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:165 (School Uniform), 7:190 (Student Discipline)

Applicable legal references and policy cross-references are listed.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy’s content. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25b specifically authorizes a school board to adopt a school uniform or dress code policy. There are hundreds of decisions on dress codes and uniform policies making it imperative that a board contact its attorney for assistance in applying the law to specific fact situations. Generally, if a student’s dress has sufficient communicative content, it will warrant First Amendment protection. If protected, a school’s ability to regulate the dress will be analyzed according to *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969) – it may be regulated only if it would substantially disrupt school operations or interfere with the right of others. In *Board of Educ. of City of Chicago*, 2006 WL 623651 (N.D.Ill., 2006), earlier decision, 326 F.Supp.2d 916 (N.D.Ill., 2004), an Illinois federal court upheld a school’s authority to punish students for wearing t-shirts portraying a one-handed boy; the court said: “A school need not tolerate student speech that is inconsistent with the school’s basic educational mission even though the First Amendment would protect similar speech or expressive conduct outside of the school setting. This holding is suspect after the Seventh Circuit decision in *Brandt v. Zampsenk v. Indian Prairie School Dist.* 420d, 646 F.3d 874 (7th Cir. 2011). There the court held that the school district violated students’ free speech rights by forbidding them from wearing during school hours a T-shirt saying “Be Happy, Not Gay.”

² A comprehensive Student Handbook can provide notice to parents and students of the school’s conduct rules, extracurricular and athletic participation requirements, and other important information. The Handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and board.

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Please review this material with your school board attorney before use.

Explanations, analysis, rationale, alternatives, and legal references are contained in footnotes; these are for reference purposes and should not be adopted as part of a policy.

Does this replace the local district policy manual?

No. The Policy Reference Manual available through PRESS does not replace the local district policy manual. Instead, it supplements the district’s policy proficiency. It serves as an encyclopedia of policy and procedures for every school district, whether or not the district has completed an IASB Policy Manual Customization.

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