

## PROPER DRESS FOR STUDENTS

The right to attend public school is not absolute. It is conditioned on each student's acceptance of the obligation to abide by the lawful rules of the school community until and unless the rules are changed through lawful processes. The Artesia School Board has the duty and the responsibility to encourage and insist upon proper dress for the school community. The Artesia Schools feel that proper dress is necessary in order to ensure sound character development, quality learning, and the discipline that is necessary to accomplish these goals. For these reasons, students shall abide by the regulations for proper dress as outlined below.

The school has the right and the responsibility to intervene at any time that it feels the appearance of any individual does not conform to proper standards of dress. The dress code shall apply to all children who attend the Artesia Public Schools and all students who participate in student activities. All details of enforcement and judgment in disputes over dress codes are delegated to the Superintendent of Schools who may delegate this responsibility to building principals. Appeals will follow the line of command from principals, to the superintendent, to the Board of Education.

### A. Student Dress Code

The citizens of the Artesia Public School District are dedicated to the concept of a comprehensive education for all students. The Artesia Board of Education, elected by the citizens and held legally responsible for this comprehensive educational program, must have certain rules and regulations that will maintain a climate conducive to the learning process. The Artesia Board of Education believes that student appearance and dress have a direct relationship to student learning; therefore, the Student Dress Code adopted includes the following concepts:

- 1) Safety of the students.
- 2) Health of the students.
- 3) Acceptable standards of decency.
- 4) Dress and appearance that is not distracting to the student involved or to other students.

### B. Girls

- 1) Hair must be neat, clean, and well groomed. The hair style must not be one that will create a hazard to the student's health or safety, and it must not be distractive to student learning. Hair will not cover the eyes.

- 2) Shoes must be worn at all times. Bathroom or house-shoe type footwear are not acceptable. Shoes that are appropriate for the daily activities must be worn at all times.
- 3) The Artesia Public Schools believe that our students should dress appropriately for school. The students should not wear clothing which would detract from the learning process. The following must be adhered to:
  - a) The hemline for dresses and skirts must be of sufficient length to reach mid-thigh or longer.
  - (2) Shorts must be of sufficient length to reach mid-thigh or longer. Cutoffs, biker shorts, or spandex shorts are prohibited. Pant stride and waist line must be in the normal position. Sagging clothing is prohibited.
  - c) Blouses with buttons are to be buttoned at all times with the exception of the top button which may or may not be buttoned. See-through clothing or off-the-shoulder blouses are prohibited. Tops/shirts must be of sufficient length to cover the top of the trousers, skirt, or shorts if the students' hands are raised above their head. Bare midriff is prohibited. Tank tops or muscle shirts are prohibited. Girls' tops must have a strap over the shoulder of at least two inches in width. The showing of cleavage is prohibited.
  - d) Any wearing apparel deemed indecent or distracting to student learning is prohibited. Clothing with inappropriate wording or pictures is prohibited. The district prohibits pictures, emblems, writings, colors, and styles of clothing that:
    - Are lewd, offensive , vulgar, or obscene.
    - Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under state or federal law.
    - Refer to or symbolize satanic, cult, or gang activities.
  - e) No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or

other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang.

- f) Spandex or Spandex-type material is prohibited when worn as outer clothing.
- h) Nose rings and spiked jewelry or studs are prohibited.
- i) Body Piercing jewelry may be displayed in the ears; body piercing jewelry displayed anywhere other than the ears is prohibited.
  - i) Chains are prohibited.
- j) Because of health, safety, and hygiene concerns, the school district strongly discourages tattoos. Tattoos which are lewd, offensive, vulgar, obscene, or distracting to student learning are not allowed to be visibly displayed at school or school activities.

C. Boys

- 1) Hair must be neat, clean, and well groomed. The hair style must not be one that will create a hazard to the student's health or safety, and it must not be distracting to student learning. Hair will not cover the eyes. Length of hair cannot be worn below the bottom of a standard dress shirt collar. Boys not meeting the length requirement may be allowed to pin it up during school hours and while participating in school activities.
- 2) Boys must be clean shaven. Sideburns may not extend below the ear lobe.
- 3) Shoes must be worn at all times. Bathroom or house-shoe type footwear are not acceptable. Shoes that are appropriate for the daily activities must be worn at all times.
- 4) The Artesia Public Schools believe that our students should dress appropriately for school. The students should not wear clothing which would detract from the learning process. The following must be adhered to:
  - a) Boys are to wear shirts at all times. Tops/shirts must be of sufficient length to cover the top of the trousers, or shorts if the students' hands are raised above their head. Bare midriff is prohibited. Tank tops or muscle shirts are prohibited; boys' tops must have sleeves. See-through

clothing is prohibited.

- b) Shorts may be worn if the length is at least to mid-thigh or below. Cutoffs, biker shorts, or spandex shorts are prohibited. Pant stride and waistline must be in the normal position. Sagging clothing is prohibited.
- c) Any wearing apparel deemed indecent or distracting to student learning is prohibited. Clothing with inappropriate wording or pictures is prohibited. The district prohibits pictures, emblems, writings, colors, and styles of clothing that:
  - Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
  - Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under state or federal law.
  - Refer to or symbolize satanic, cult, or gang activities.
- d) No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang.
- e) Spandex or Spandex-type material is prohibited when worn as outer clothing.
- f) Nose rings and spiked jewelry or studs are prohibited.
- g) Body Piercing jewelry may be displayed in the ears; body piercing jewelry displayed anywhere other than the ears is prohibited.
- h) Chains are prohibited.
- i) Because of health, safety, and hygiene concerns, the school district strongly discourages tattoos. Tattoos which are lewd, offensive, vulgar, obscene, or distracting to student learning are not allowed to be visibly displayed at school or school activities.

D. DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS CONSEQUENCES

Grooming:

If the principal determines that a student's grooming violates the dress code, the student shall be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student's parent/guardian will be notified. The student shall be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected.

Dress:

A student whose clothing violates the dress code shall be assigned to in-school suspension either for the remainder of the day or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school. Multiple violations of the dress code could result in short or long-term suspension.

Board Approved: July 18, 2002