

Nerstrand Elementary School Policy #502.9
Independent Charter School District #4055
Adopted: 11/8/2010

502.9 DRESS CODE

A. Basic Philosophy

A correlation exists between good grooming, personal attire, personal/public respect, and student achievement. A similar relationship exists between student dress and acceptable standards of conduct. The School District has a legitimate educational interest in promoting respect for authority, decency and civility among students and in protecting the health and safety of its students. This dress code is designed to allow for student comfort, while maintaining an environment conducive to learning and appropriate for the educational setting in Nerstrand Elementary School.

Recognizing these relationships and educational interests, the following dress code applies to both sexes and will be enforced at school and school-sanctioned activities. Any apparel, hair style, cosmetics, or jewelry – **even if not specifically mentioned below** - which poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, or disrupts the educational process, is not acceptable. Our school is a place for the business of education; students' grooming and dress must be appropriate to both the school setting and the weather. Exceptions to the enforcement of this dress code may be made in certain circumstances and for other school sanctioned activities. Students will be notified in advance of the activity of the dress code provisions which may be relaxed for the activity.

B. Standards for Student Clothing

1. Clothing must not pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others. Pants/shorts/skirts must fit around the waist (or must be belted) and must not be torn above the mid-thigh. Pant legs or skirts must not drag on the floor.
2. Clothing or markings to the body must not include words or visuals that are sexually suggestive, profane, abusive, degrading or discriminatory; clothing or markings to the body must not display or promote the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or other activities or products that are illegal to minors.
3. See-through or sexually suggestive apparel which exposes the body in an inappropriate/suggestive manner may not be worn. Underwear must not be visible.
4. Straps on tops must be at least two fingers wide. Strapless and/or backless dresses or tops; tube tops, halter tops; dresses or tops with spaghetti straps, such as camisoles may not be worn. Necklines can not be lower than three fingers below collarbone. Crop tops or other tops which expose the midriff and any other similar clothing items which could be distracting or disruptive to the educational process may not be worn.
5. Dresses/skirts/shorts must reach past mid-thigh. Slits in dresses and skirts must be no

higher than mid-thigh. Mid-thigh is defined as where the fingertips brush the legs when arms hang freely.

6. Headgear, including hats, bandannas, hoods, and sunglasses, may not be worn in the school building.

7. Spiked and chain-linked jewelry/accessories may not be worn.

8. Electronic equipment (such a cell phones, compact disc, cassette or MP3 players, palm pilots, hand-held video games, etc.) may not be carried during the school day.

9. Jackets, coats, and other similar items of outerwear may not be worn in the school building during the school day; these items must remain in lockers.

10. Clothing is not a substitute for a backpack. Students are not to carry items that cause pockets, etc. to be bulky.

11. No gang-related apparel, clothing, jewelry, insignia, colors, paraphernalia or materials may be worn on or carried on campus or at school-sanctioned activities.

a. For the purposes of this policy, “gang” is defined as any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, that:

(1) has, as one of its primary activities, the commission of one or more of criminal offenses;

(2) has a common name or common identifying sign or symbol; and

(3) includes members who individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity.

b. Recognizing that gang-related apparel, clothing, jewelry, insignia, colors, paraphernalia or materials may vary from year to year, an updated list of items which are not allowed under this subsection will be posted in the Director’s office in the school if and when necessary.

First Offense:

- **Student will be given school clothing to change into and a written note will be sent home for parents to sign and return.**

Second Offense:

- **Parent/guardian will be called to bring in more appropriate clothing for the student.**

Headgear, inappropriate accessories, and electronic equipment, worn or carried, will be confiscated by the teacher for the entire school day. Students may return at the end of the school day to retrieve the item(s) from the teacher.