

## DRESS CODE POLICY

BOARD APPROVED 9/11/00; REVISED 3/13/02, 5/9/03, 4/16/04, 5/11/05, 5/11/09

### **PURPOSE**

The Montrose Area School District (MASD) requires that all students (K-12) wear appropriate and respectable dress while attending school. It is also necessary that students dress neatly and in good taste when attending or participating in any school sponsored activity. Clothing that disrupts or inhibits education or endangers the health, welfare, and safety of others is prohibited in school. Besides the normal acceptable attire, the types of clothing listed in the policy are either considered acceptable or unacceptable.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop procedures and guidelines for the control and administration of student dress at school and school sponsored events. The administration and staff in each school are responsible for following the guidelines of this policy. The cooperation of the entire staff is essential in the implementation of this policy. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children conform to the dress code policy. This policy has been established for the health, welfare, and safety of the entire student body and to ensure that the climate of each school is conducive to effective learning.

### **AUTHORITY**

The MASD receives its authority through the state laws and court decisions of Pennsylvania that allow for a school district to establish policies that control student behavior, including dress, in order to preserve the necessary atmosphere of a building that is conducive to the educational process.

## DRESS CODE POLICY GUIDELINES

Although this policy addresses students in K-12 there are considerations within the guidelines for the differences that exist between elementary and secondary students. Those areas are clearly delineated within this policy.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. Pants: The only appropriate pants that can be worn are as follows: denim jeans, dress pants, and khakis. The following pants are not allowed: sweat pants, "scrubs", pajamas, and velvet/cotton pants. Additionally, cut-off shorts, cut-off jean shorts, cut-off sweatpants, or any cutup clothing are not suitable for school wear. Pants that are worn in such a manner as to expose underwear are unacceptable. Dresses, skirts, or shorts, or any attire bearing holes are prohibited. In addition, shorts and skirts that are higher than three (3) inches above a student's knees are unacceptable.
2. Shirts, "T" shirts, or patches with written and/or pictured references to drugs, alcohol, sex, tobacco products, nudity, or suicide are unacceptable. This shall include clothing with vulgar language, double meanings, or disrespectful references to religion, race, or ethnic origin. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts are unacceptable style of dress for boys, unless worn under another shirt. All boys' shirts must have sleeves. Girls must have at least 2" of material from the bottom of the neck extending toward the shoulder. Blouses or shirts are also prohibited from being cut below the collarbone in such a manner as to inappropriately expose a student's chest. Shirts of any type are prohibited from being worn off the shoulders.
3. MIDRIFF-The only way to create definite guidelines in this area is to be very specific. Skin can never be visible in this region of the body when a student is in a normal standing or seated position. Half or cut-off shirts, halter tops, mesh or see through clothing, or any clothing which exposes bare midriff on any student are unacceptable.
4. Spandex, tights, tube tops, or other skin tight clothing of any type unless worn under an acceptable style of dress are prohibited.
5. Any footwear that a student may choose to wear must be appropriate for the conditions of the classes in which they are participating. If a teacher deems a student's footwear as a safety issue for their class, they may ask the student to change them. Flip flops, shower shoes, athletic sandals, and slippers are prohibited.
6. Heavy winter jackets, gloves, trench coats, are strictly prohibited during school hours.
7. Students are also prohibited from wearing spiked jewelry as well as chains attached to clothing or worn as jewelry.
8. Students are not allowed to have facial piercings that are in and around the mouth area.
9. The wearing of hats or bandanas is prohibited inside the school building unless approved by the Administration.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

Sanctions for violating this policy shall begin with the changing of the inappropriate clothing and proceed to punitive measures including after school detention and suspensions for repeat or serious digressions.

## **GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT OFFENDERS**

Staff members who observe a student in violation of the dress code policy guidelines shall report the student to the administrator in charge. The administrator shall follow outlined disciplinary procedures in handling the infraction. The administrator shall record the policy infraction in the student's disciplinary file to facilitate the tracking of individual student dress code violations.

## **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT OFFENDERS**

1. The principal shall instruct the student to change the inappropriate clothing immediately. If appropriate clothing is unavailable the parent shall be contacted and appropriate clothing shall be made available. Appropriate clothing may be procured from another student or the health office. This first infraction of the dress code policy will be a warning.
2. On the second offense, the student will receive a detention or Supervised Special Studies at the discretion of the school administrator.
3. After the second offense, a letter may be sent home to the student's parent/guardian informing them of the violation committed by their son/daughter. The punishment for any further infractions of the policy will be at the discretion of the school administrator in charge.