

## **ASPEN ACADEMY**

Adopted: 4-15-08

Revised: 1-12-10; 11-16-2010, 11-18-2014; 6-16-2015

Reviewed: 7-21-22

### **504 STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards.

#### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. As with all school operations, Dress Code requirements shall be nonsectarian and ensure student safety. The school may restrict the wearing of any attire otherwise complying with the Dress Code where the wearing of such attire would compromise the student's physical safety in a particular situation (e.g. the wearing of any jewelry may be prohibited during physical education for safety reasons).
- B. It is the policy of this school to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- C. Appropriate clothing, above all, should be appropriate for the weather and should not create a health or safety hazard. Further defined in the attached document for parents entitled "Uniform Guidelines" wherein all specifics shall be noted.
- D. The selected uniform items, in accordance with both this policy and the "Uniform Guidelines" document, must be appropriate to the school setting and reasonably relate to the standards of school safety, modesty, hygiene, discipline and neatness.
- E. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Outdoor wear including hats, caps and other cold weather wear worn indoors including boots.
  - 2. Clothing that is ripped or torn.
  - 3. Cargo pants, colored jeans, corduroys, capris and sweatpants. Pants or shorts must be hemmed. Baggy and/or tight fitting or oversized pants and bicycle shorts, cut-offs, short shorts, leggings (worn alone) or boxer shorts are inappropriate. Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers should extend past the fingertips or longer when arms are at the side.
  - 4. Obtrusive hair accessories. Items matching the uniform are requested but at the minimum should be minimal and not distracting.
  - 5. Obtrusive jewelry. Items worn should be minimal and not distracting.

6. Clothing that bears a message that is, or could be construed as, lewd, vulgar or obscene.
  7. Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is or may be perceived to be racist, sexist or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances or provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in Policy 413.
  8. Any apparel or footwear that could damage school property.
- F. It is not the intention of this policy to abridge the rights of students to express their religious beliefs by denying students the right to wear religious required garments. Such garments are acceptable as long as they are not, or cannot be construed to be, lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane or advocate violence or harassment against others.
- G. “Gang” as defined by this policy, means any ongoing organization, association or group of two or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal activity or any activity intended to intimidate. “Pattern of criminal activity” means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same group who displays criminal acts or intends to intimidate.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

- A. Aspen Academy’s students are expected to comply with the Dress Code on a daily basis. Teachers, with assistance from the administration, will enforce the Dress Code.
- B. The “Uniform Guidelines” will be reviewed by the Program Services committee to be sure it complies with the spirit and letter of this policy on a cycle consistent with other school policies and shall be made available to the parents either electronically or in print.
- C. When, in the judgment of the administration and/or staff, a student’s appearance, grooming or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the students or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. Parents/Guardians will be notified.
- D. The administration may approve a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/guardians.
- E. The administration may approve a form of dress to be considered appropriate for a specific individual based on health needs or concerns as documented by a health professional, IEP or 504 plan.
- F. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval.