

WESTMORLAND UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Board Policy No. 5022:     LIMITATIONS ON APPEARANCE**

- A.     The Board encourages pupils to dress appropriately for school. The Board believes that pupils should be neatly and cleanly dressed.
  
- B.     The Board acknowledges that pupils have legal rights to freedom of expression, but the following limitations on appearance shall apply:
  - 1.     Pupils must dress safely. For example, appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear must be safe and not limit participation in school activities. Thongs, flip-flops, or thin-strapped sandals may not be worn for outdoor play, athletic or other activities for which unsafe.
  
  - 2.     Pupils must dress appropriately for educational activities in which they will participate so as not to endanger their health, safety or welfare. Ornatmentation or jewelry which poses a safety hazard shall not be worn. The Board recommends that pupils not wear jewelry in pierced tongues, faces or body parts other than ears, and that jewelry in multiple pierced ears not be worn because of the threat to the health and safety of the pupil. Students with pierced portions of their bodies may be required to remove jewelry during activities in which the wearing of such jewelry may endanger their safety.
  
  - 3.     Pupils must be cleanly dressed so as not to promote unhealthy or unsanitary conditions.
  
  - 4.     Pupils shall not dress in an obscene manner or display obscene material on clothing or personal items. Extremely brief garments, such as very short skirts, skorts or shorts, and too-revealing garments, such as plunging necklines, see-through shirts, and clothing which reveals underclothing, breasts, buttocks, or midriffs is prohibited.
  
  - 5.     Pupils shall not display any material which advertises or promotes an unlawful act such as the consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors or the possession, sale or use of controlled drugs or substances.
  
  - 6.     Pupils shall not display any material which is libelous or slanderous.
  
  - 7.     Pupils shall not display any material which so incites pupils as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of District policies or rules.

8. Pupils shall not display any material which so incites pupils as to create a clear and present danger of a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or the educational process.
  9. Pupils may wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats for outdoor use only.
  10. Gang apparel and gang-related apparel is hazardous to the health and safety of the school environment. The Superintendent is authorized to meet with law enforcement and other knowledgeable persons in the community to identify gang activity, gang and gang-related apparel, and to provide notice to parents, guardians and pupils of such prohibited items if gang activity is present. Pupils wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia/clothing shall be referred to the Superintendent or designee. If necessary, the pupil's parent or guardian shall be contacted and the pupil sent home to change clothes.
- C. No pupil may be suspended because of a violation of Section B of this Board Policy unless:
1. Other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct;
  2. The pupil has been given adequate notice of the violation of this Board Policy; and
  3. The pupil has been given an adequate opportunity under the circumstances to comply with the direction to cease violating this Board Policy.
  4. The pupil has been given an opportunity to meet with the Superintendent or designee.
- D. This Board Policy shall not be interpreted so as to limit any efforts by employees to have pupils voluntarily dress in a manner which promotes a better learning atmosphere.
- E. The Superintendent shall assure that teachers, students and parents are aware of the requirements of this Policy.

Legal Reference:

Education Code sections 35183, 35183.5, 48907, 48900, 48900.5

Date Policy Adopted By The Board: October 9, 2003