



## Vision

*We will build the foundation for all children to be their best, achieve their dreams, and make the world a better place.*

# Dress Code Guiding Principles

## Purpose

The City Schools of Decatur Dress Code helps students develop cultural skills and values consistent with our vision- *We will build the foundation for all children to be their best, achieve their dreams, and make the world a better place.* These skills and values guide students to make thoughtful choices to dress appropriately for school activities and to embody empathy when perceiving how others dress. The **guiding principles** help us pursue these goals. Families and faculty are partners in the educational process. The **Dos and Don'ts** provide specific guidance for parents, guardians, students, and staff to support students in dressing appropriately for safety, learning, and social-emotional development and understanding compliance and consequences.

## Guiding Principles

### Curricular

How we dress is a form of social communication and part of becoming college and career ready. By learning this form of communication, students develop personal identity and responsibility, as well as awareness of their impact on, and interdependence with, the larger community. While CSD acknowledges the right of students to express themselves through their fashion style, the need to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment necessitates placing certain parameters around this expression. Dress Code missteps are treated as teachable moments rather than disciplinary offenses (see \*\* in the chart for exception and also consequences section for information dealing with students making repeated dress code missteps).

### Developmentally Appropriate

Students, depending on their age and grade level, have different academic, physical, and social-emotional needs. The Dress Code recognizes this by adjusting expectations as students grow.

### Equitable

In keeping with CSD's mission to foster safe and inviting schools, the Dress Code strives to be equitable for students across gender identity, race-ethnicity, body type, religion, and socioeconomic status. No aspect of the Dress Code should infringe on a student's physical, cultural or religious needs. Anyone feeling an aspect of the Dress Code is not equitable is welcome to share this with the school administration.

### Manageable & Current

While the Dress Code is curricular, it takes a backseat to the academic curriculum. Thus, it should be as easy as possible for students to execute and faculty to monitor consistently. In order to ensure this, as well as reflect what is available and affordable to families (noting some "fashionable" styles will not be appropriate for school), the Dress Code is regularly reviewed by the faculty and stakeholders.

### When Principles Collide

In instances when guiding principles are at odds with each other, CSD seeks to balance the principles as best it can. Ultimately, the school administrator or designee must be respected in making an appropriate judgment on such matters. A student found to be out of Dress Code will be directed to change clothes. Students are encouraged to have a change of clothing available.



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### Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
<p>Show your bright, beautiful face.</p> <p>Dress comfortably for learning and varying temperatures.</p> <p>Dress safely for navigating the halls, stairs, physical education, career tech and science classes (see specific class safety contracts; e.g. Science Lab Safety Contract).</p> <p>Dress in clothing that is culturally or religiously appropriate and/or medically necessary.</p> <p>How we dress is a form of social communication and part of becoming college and career ready. Therefore, dress to cover your waist, torso, midriff, chest, and undergarments.</p> <p>Do comply with any school, classroom or event specific guidelines.</p>	<p>CSD needs to be able to identify students. Therefore, hats, hoods, and bandanas are not permitted.</p> <p>CSD needs everyone to actively listen and be aware of their surroundings. Therefore, earbuds/headphones are permitted only for instructional purposes.</p> <p>CSD needs to maintain a safe and orderly environment promoting respect and care for self and others. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attire which advertises, depicts or refers to use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances, gang activity, and weapons or includes profanity, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious slurs or obscene language, actions or gestures are not permitted.**</li> <li>• Garments designed to be worn as under layers such as long underwear, tights, and leggings should not be worn as an outer layer.</li> </ul>

\*\* See current Student Code of Conduct (version 2017-2018, Rule 19) for state reportable violations.

### Common Sense Recommendations

Dress up for in-class or community presentations.

Avoid crocs, flip flops or other loose fitting footwear that jeopardizes safety and freedom of movement for emergency situations, recess, field work, active classroom experiences, and Physical Education classes.

### Consequences

A student whose attire does not comply with the guiding principles and Dos and Don'ts will be expected to change, cover or otherwise adjust their attire.

While Dress Code missteps are treated as teachable moments rather than disciplinary offenses, students who make repeated "missteps" may be assigned an age-appropriate consequence. For example, a student may be required to attend detention, at which time they would complete a pre-planned lesson related to the guiding principles. It is developmentally appropriate that students think in concrete terms and employ literal interpretations, so the lesson might include specific examples and images -- with care taken to demonstrate cultural competence.

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