



# **Madera Unified School District**

## **Student Dress Code**

***Excerpted from the 2010-11 MUSD Student Handbook***

The Board of Education encourages pupils to dress appropriately, neatly, and cleanly. Dress or grooming that draws undue attention or detracts from the educational process is unacceptable.

The Board finds that participation in gangs, gang-related activities, and wearing gang-related apparel disrupts education and creates a hazard to the health and safety of the school environment. The wearing or displaying of gang-related apparel, insignia, or other gang identifiers is prohibited.

“Gang-related apparel” is defined as any item of clothing, accessory, jewelry, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or other attribute, denotes membership in affiliation with gangs.

This dress code (BP 5132) applies to all students irrespective of gender, race, ethnic group, or religious affiliation, and will be enforced without discrimination.

All school staff, including teachers, classroom aides and other classified staff, as well as school administrators are expected by the Board of Education to ensure that this policy is fairly and consistently implemented throughout the district.

1. Pupils must dress safely. For example, shoes or footwear which is secured at the heel at least by means of straps must be worn at all times at school or during school activities, excepting when it is clearly appropriate and permitted to go barefoot as when participating in water sports.
2. Pupils must dress appropriately for educational activities in which they will

participate so as not to endanger their health, safety, or welfare.

3. Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia, which are crude, vulgar, profane, obscene, libelous, slanderous, or sexually suggestive. Clothing and jewelry that advocate or depict racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice, or other unlawful acts, or tobacco, drugs, or alcohol are prohibited.

Clothing, including head coverings may not bear any names, insignia, or logos/mascots associated with college, university or professional sports or gang-related symbols of any kind.

4. Hats, caps, and other head coverings may be worn only outdoors, not inside school facilities, including hallways and foyers, to protect against harmful exposure to the sun. In order to shade the face, head coverings must have brims or bills, which extend outward at least 3” (three inches) from the headband. Caps or visors must be worn with the bills facing forward, and not to the side or backwards.

Hats, caps, or other head coverings may also be worn to protect against inclement weather according to the following guidelines: from October 1 through March 1, or on rainy days, pupils may be allowed to wear hooded sweatshirts/coats with hoods pulled up; head coverings specifically designed as rain gear (even if such headgear does not have a three-inch wide brim or bill); and stocking/knit caps fashioned from yarn. In all other respects, such head coverings shall conform to the restrictions that apply to sun protective coverings, that is, they may not be

worn indoors and they may not bear prohibited designs or inscriptions.

Individual schools may limit this authorization to wear head coverings. They may restrict the use of head coverings to only those, which conform with the color or design requirements specified by the school's administration. Students and parents are advised to consult with the administration at the school of attendance in this regard, prior to purchasing or wearing hats, caps, or other head coverings.

5. Dark glasses shall not be worn indoors.
6. Clothes shall be clean so as not to promote unhealthy or unsanitary conditions.
7. Clothes must be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. Underwear-type sleeveless shirts/blouses, biker shorts, see-through or fishnet fabrics, which expose the body in a sexually suggestive manner, are not acceptable. All shirts/blouses and other upper garments must cover the torso. Bare midriffs, tube tops, or halter-tops are prohibited, including tops or blouses that show midriff when arms are raised above the head. All shoulder straps must be of sufficient width to cover undergarments straps. Openings for neck and arms which expose the body in a sexually suggestive manner are not acceptable. Students in grades 7-12, when attending formal dances, may wear strapless gowns/dresses provided that by doing so, community standards of modesty are not offended.
8. Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be at least mid-thigh length. Students who participate in pep and cheer, when required by their advisor to wear their cheer uniforms, may wear their cheer outfits without violation of this provision.
9. Bandannas are not allowed.
10. Pants must be worn with the top around the wearer's waist or hips (NO SAGGING PANTS). Pants may not be worn in such a

manner that their bottoms (cuffs) drag along the ground. Pants must be able to stay at the wearer's waist without a belt. Oversized clothing (EXCESSIVELY BAGGY PANTS), which might allow the easy concealment of weapons, is prohibited.

11. Clothing straps must be fastened.
12. Clothing must be worn, as its design was traditionally intended.
13. Earrings are to be worn in ears only. Accessories may not be worn in other pierced body parts. Accessories must be removed prior to attending any school function or activity unless there is a medically valid reason for not doing so. If accessories cannot be immediately removed, they must be covered.
14. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Haircuts or hairstyles that draw undue attention to the wearer or detract from the educational process are not acceptable (i.e., unusual designs, colors, symbols, razor cuts, and the like). Writings in the hair are not permitted.
15. Attire that may be used as a weapon may not be worn (e.g., steel-toed boots, chains, items with spikes or studs, etc.).
16. Pupils shall not display any material or paraphernalia, which incites a disruption of the school process or creates a clear and present danger of either the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of District or school-site policies or rules.
17. Gang-related apparel or paraphernalia, including symbols, emblems, insignias, or other gang identifiers, may not be worn or displayed. This rule prohibits the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook, or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, wording, or other attribute, denotes membership in, or affiliation with, gangs.

This rule also prohibits the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook, or manner of grooming which, in combination with other conditions or circumstances, denotes membership in or affiliation with gangs. For example, the wearing of a blue/red shirt, in and of itself, may or may not be indicative that the shirt is gang related. However, when a blue/red shirt is worn in the company of other persons who are wearing blue/red shirts and who are flashing gang signs or are speaking in a manner suggestive of gang affiliation, then it may legitimately be concluded that the blue/red shirt worn in such conditions and circumstances is gang-related apparel.

The Governing Board finds that there is an increasing tendency for youth to use brand-name clothing and apparel as a means of signifying gang membership and/or affiliation. Therefore, on a case-by-case basis, administrators may prohibit students from wearing clothing/apparel which bears certain brand names, whenever it is reasonably determined that the student is using the brand name as a means of proclaiming her/his gang membership or affiliation.

In case of doubt as to whether an item is gang-related, the principal or designee will consult with local law enforcement or with other persons, with expertise in gangs, especially those persons, who through the intelligence gathering activities of the local Gang Task Force and are knowledgeable about recent trends in local gang-related apparel, activities, etc. Any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook, or manner of grooming which has been determined by these officers, based upon intelligence supplied by the Gang Task Force, is prohibited. Quarterly updates regarding such matters will be provided to site administrators by the Office of Student Services.

18. Clothing that depicts names, insignia, or logos/mascots associated with college, university or professional sports is prohibited (e.g., Bulldogs, Hoyas, Raiders,

Las Chivas, etc.). Clothing that depicts names, insignia, or logos associated primarily with college or university academic programs and does not depict names, insignia, or logos/mascots associated primarily with college or university sports programs is permitted (i.e., C.S.U.F., Georgetown, etc.). Modified college or professional team sport clothing, from which team logos and team names have been removed, are professional team sport clothing, from which team logos and team names have been removed, are prohibited whenever numerals, player names or distinctive elements of design remain on display.

19. Initial belts and /or belt buckles are prohibited. Belt straps are not permitted to drape (NO HANGING BELTS).

20. Any apparel, hairstyle, cosmetic, accessory, or jewelry, even if not specifically mentioned above, that creates a safety or health concern, draws undue attention to the wearer, or tends to detract from the educational process, is prohibited.

21. Every high school and middle school student of this District, must have in his/her possession a valid student identification card when on campus or at school functions.

Limited exceptions to this policy may be made by the principal for special days, special events, or other unusual circumstances, such as the need to accommodate health or religious concerns.

Progressive discipline will be imposed for violations of the Dress Code including warnings, confiscation, and disciplinary action including suspension and expulsion for persistent violations.

### **Confiscation of Clothing and Personal Items Having Gang-Related Inscriptions, Symbols or Markings**

The Governing Board has determined that the safety needs of students will be enhanced by the confiscation of clothing and other personal items

which bear gang-related symbols, inscriptions, or other markings. Such items will be turned over to the Madera Police Department and its Gang Task Force Unit, which will attempt to obtain parental cooperation in diverting their children from gang involvement. Return of any items so confiscated will be in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Madera Police Department and BP 5145.12.