



San Diego Unified School District

UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL ♦ 6949 Genesee Avenue, San Diego, CA 92122 ♦ (858) 457-3040

University City High School Dress Code Policy

The intent of any code of conduct is to ensure a positive teaching and learning environment for all students and staff. The code should provide enough flexibility to accommodate personal taste in order that teaching and learning continues to be the focus of the classrooms. **Modesty and good taste should govern all school clothing selections.**

Note: The majority of the policy outlined below was influenced by and emulates the Model School Dress Code created by Oregon NOW in 2016.

Our values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- Teachers can focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline should be minimized whenever

GOALS OF A STUDENT DRESS CODE: A student dress code should accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- **Prevent** students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- **Prevent** students from wearing clothing with images or language depicting or advocating violence or the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, and personal style.

Basic Principle:

- Certain body parts must be covered for all students



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- Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, and nipples are covered with opaque material.
- Cleavage should not have set coverage standards

All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

Students Must Wear:*

- Shirt
- Bottom: pants/sweatpants/shorts/skirt/dress/leggings
- Shoes; activity-specific shoes requirements are permitted (for example for sports)

* High-school courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on covering girls’ bodies or promoting culturally-specific attire.

Students May Wear:

- Hats, including religious headwear
- Hoodie sweatshirts (over-head is allowed at teacher discretion)
- Fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants and “skinny jeans”
- Midriff baring shirts
- Pajamas
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear is not exposed.
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps, halter tops, and “tube” (strapless) tops
- Athletic attire
- Clothing with commercial or athletic logos provided they do not violate bullets below

Students Cannot Wear:

- Violent language or images
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of same.
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- Visible underwear. Visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are **not** a violation.
- Bathing suits.
- Helmets or headgear that obscures the face (except as a religious observance).



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DRESS CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Teachers are expected to enforce dress code consistently.
- Teachers will notify administrators, who will deal with violations during passing period or lunch. Students in violation will be given a pass to their next class if necessary.
- Violators will receive an explanation of their violation and will be trained on the dress code.
- Repeat violators will be subject to increased disciplinary action.

TEACHING ABOUT CONSENT + SEXUAL HARASSMENT: A STEP BEYOND DRESS CODE

Schools have a role to play in setting clear anti-harassment policies and in teaching curricula that promote positive messages about consent-only sexual activity.

Consent: Schools should teach all students — and administrators and teachers — about consent (no means no) so there is a clear message that individual students are responsible for their own actions and that consent is a must before any sexual or other physical contact.

Sexual Harassment: Schools should have clear and well publicized anti-sexual harassment policies for students and staff. Schools should educate students and staff to not engage in sexual harassment and to recognize what it is and how to address it.