Elementary School Common Practices

DISTRICT DRESS CODE GUIDELINES
Clothing must be appropriate for school settings in order to provide a safe and orderly environment for all students to learn. The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and his or her parents or guardians.

Allowable Dress and Grooming
- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent and shoes.
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front, back, and on the sides. Fabric covering all private parts must not be see through.
- Clothing must cover undergarments and all private parts.
- All tops must have straps
- All tops must meet the top of the pants
- Wearing pants below the waistline is not allowed.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, wood shop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

Non-Allowable Dress and Grooming
- Clothing may not depict, advertise or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- Baseball hats, caps, visors, etc. are not allowed in and cannot be carried around the building. Students may wear hoodies, but must keep the hood off their heads. Considerations will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or convey a particular message protected by law.
- Dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar, or plainly offensive.
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation or any other protected groups.
- Clothing, including gang identifiers, must not threaten the health or safety of any other student or staff.

- If the student’s attire or grooming threatens the health or safety of any other person, then discipline for dress or grooming violations should be consistent with discipline policies for similar violations.
- Clothing with words, pictures, or phrases that depicts violence or intimidation may not be worn (examples include images of guns, knives and any other items generally considered to be a weapon).

Students who are in violation of the school dress code will:
1. Be educated on the reason this clothing is not allowed in a school setting, and when possible be given the opportunity to remove the item(s).
2. Be given the opportunity to change into school issued clothing in order to find items that are appropriate to wear.
3. When the first two are not viable options, the student’s parent will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing for the student to change into.
4. Repeated violations could result in school consequences.
5. Students will not be allowed to return to classes until they are in compliance with the school dress code.

NOTE: Schools may communicate additional information on dress code expectations to students and parents/guardians.

OUTDOOR RECESS
We recognize the need for students to play outside, and therefore, every attempt will be made to use the playground when possible. There is not a district-wide temperature that requires schools to have indoor recess. Every playground has unique characteristics and locations that may protect or expose students to the elements. Each principal makes the determination based on the temperature, wind chill, precipitation, progress of snow and ice removal of the grounds.

Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. During wet, snowy weather, students not adequately dressed for the conditions will be asked to remain on the concrete play area for recess. Indoor recess will be determined by the principal when appropriate.

If students are not well enough to play outside, they are usually not well enough to be in school. Unless a physician's excuse has been obtained, a note from the parent/guardian is required each day that a student is to remain indoors during recess. The note should state the reason for the request.
School Supplies

Traditionally, one of the rituals families participate in as they prepare for the new school year is to purchase school supplies. In accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law, Lincoln Public Schools provides a free, public education to all students. This generally means the district provides the supplies needed for instruction at no cost to students. This includes text books, pencils, erasers, crayons, glue, scissors, paper, notebooks, tissues, etc. For this reason, please do not send school supplies for your child’s individual use at school.

You are NOT required to purchase any of these items, but you may wish to purchase and donate some items to your child’s classroom. We ask that you do not put your child’s name on any items. All items purchased will be graciously accepted as a donation to the school and will be shared by all students within the classroom. Please refer to our school website for suggestions.

Students Arriving Early

Parents or guardians are expected to follow the designated arrival time for their school. Supervision is not available prior to the arrival time.

Students Arriving Late

Students arriving late after the start of school must enter through the front door and report to the office.

Students Leaving School Prior to Dismissal Bell

Parents or guardians are required to sign their child(ren) out of school if they are leaving prior to the afternoon dismissal bell. The parent or guardian must report to the main office for this purpose. Office personnel will assist with this process. If a child is being signed out, the school secretary will call the appropriate classroom and indicate to the teacher that the child is leaving. Parents are not to go directly to the classrooms. Students will be called to the office when the parent arrives at school.

Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, Hoverboards, etc.

Due to congested traffic at arrival and dismissal surrounding schools, it is strongly recommended parents/guardians allow only older students to ride bikes to school. Younger students often struggle with controlling the bike, watching for cars, and maintaining focus when riding with other children. All students are expected to follow correct safety practices and to walk their bikes while on school grounds. Bikes are to be locked in the bike rack provided on school grounds. Helmets should be worn and may be taken to the child’s locker/coat hook during the school day.

Skateboards, rollerblades, shoes with retractable wheels, shoe skates, all scooters and hoverboards are not allowed on school property. Thank you for not bringing these items when you come to pick up your child.

Elementary Homework Expectations

Homework refers to the tasks that a student is given to do outside of the instructional time. The purpose of homework is to provide students with an opportunity for independent practice of skills that they have learned. Elementary students will have some homework each day to provide this needed practice and reinforcement of learning. Parents can support learning at home by asking questions about what your child is learning and what types of homework he/she has. Parents can help to clarify the directions or expectations of the homework so that the student can complete the work to the best of his/her ability. However, it is not the school’s expectation that parents will help students complete their homework or provide instruction at home. If at any time the homework becomes too difficult, please write a note to your child’s teacher stating the questions or concepts that should be clarified.

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