

# K-5

## COMMON PRACTICES

Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln, Nebraska (Rev. 5/2024)

*The following are elementary school common practices that have been extracted from the Lincoln Public Schools Important Information Booklet. This sheet is meant to be a quick-reference guide for common practices that are for elementary school families only. A complete LPS Important Information Booklet is available online at [LPS.org](https://lps.org).*

### DISTRICT DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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.
- Although they are fashionable and popular, we discourage students from wearing flip-flops and strappy sandals to school. They are difficult to run in and children trip, fall, or suffer ankle injuries when wearing flip-flops. Sturdy shoes for running are recommended for outdoor play and physical education class.
- 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.

#### GIFTS, TREATS, AND INVITATIONS

Money cannot be collected to buy gifts for school personnel. Exceptions can be made in the case of personal misfortune, or if a special honor is being given to a student, parent/guardian, or school staff member.

Classrooms recognize birthdays in a variety of ways. Students are not allowed to bring birthday treats (edible or nonedible). Please do not send gifts, party favors, balloons, or flowers. These items will not be delivered to classrooms.

Invitations will not be distributed during the school day. Teachers should be notified ahead of time if a student has invitations to distribute after school. Phone numbers and addresses cannot be distributed by any school personnel.

### **SCHOOL/CLASSROOM PARTIES AND CELEBRATIONS**

Parties and classroom celebrations (e.g., Fall, Holiday, Valentine's) are at the discretion of the building principal aligned with LPS Guidelines.

Any food that is associated with classroom parties/celebrations will be provided by the school or parent organization with the approval of the principal. Students or families should not bring food for their class for any occasion.

The principal will determine the guidelines for including edible or non-edible treats in individual Valentine cards. Edible treats will be sent home and not be eaten at school due to possible allergies and food sensitivities.

### **LATE PICK UP PROCEDURES**

Staff will supervise students at dismissal. When outside supervision concludes, students not picked up are brought inside to the office to ensure safety. Parents are contacted and asked to come into the school and sign students out. If parents/guardians and all emergency contacts cannot be reached, the police may be contacted to help with unification.

### **CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices are considered nuisance items if heard or used during the school day. If personal electronic devices are brought to school, they should be kept in their backpack, locker, or location designated by school staff during the school day. Smart watches can be worn as long as they are used as a standard watch. If smart watches are used for any other function, they will be treated the same as other personal electronic devices, and the student will be asked to keep the device in a backpack, locker, or other location designated by school staff. The school is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen devices. Please note that it is unlawful, and therefore prohibited on school grounds, to take a picture or record audio or video of another person without their consent.

### **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 INDEPENDENT**

#### **PRACTICE/HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS**

Independent practice/homework refers to the tasks that a student is given to do outside of instructional time. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity for independent practice of skills they have learned. The independent practice/homework will not be graded and will not count towards the grade where students' knowledge or skill is assessed. If there is inconsistency in completing the assignments, it will be reflected under the Student Development section of the report card, and the teacher will communicate with the student and parents/guardians. Elementary students will have some independent practice/homework each day to provide opportunities for students to practice and reinforce learning. Parents/guardians may support learning at home by asking questions about what their student is learning. They may also help to clarify the directions or expectations of the independent practice/homework so that the student can complete the work to the best of their ability. It is not the school's expectation that parents/guardians will help students complete their assignments or provide instruction at home. If, at any time, the assignment becomes too difficult, please write a note to your child's teacher stating the questions or concepts that should be clarified.