**DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY**

The Academy recognizes that each student’s manner of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Academy will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the education program of the District. This dress and grooming policy has been developed to promote a safe and healthy school setting and to enhance the educational environment. The Academy expects each student to dress cleanly and neatly, and practice good personal hygiene while in any building or property of Hamilton Alternative Academy or Hamilton Local Schools.

**The administration reserves the right to evaluate and rule upon any dress or grooming that is not consistent with a safe, non-distracting educational program that may or may not be contained in this policy. This would include, but is not limited to, new trends or fads in fashion which may be unknown at the time of the development, approval, and printing of this policy**

**General Guidelines**

No article of clothing, accessory, or appearance shall:

1. Distract from the educational process.
2. Discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, or religion.

**Unacceptable Clothing, Accessories, or Appearances**

Items that are not permitted include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Hats, head dresses, bandanas (Except with permission from the Director)
2. Shorts/skirts shorter than mid thigh, regardless of what is worn underneath (e.g. leggings or tights)
3. Form fitting yoga pants, leggings, tights or spandex unless warn with a shirt that is longer than mid-thigh
4. Sunglasses or non-essential eyewear (Unless prescribed by a physician and/or approved by the principal)
5. Sleepwear or loungewear
6. Slippers, house shoes, or shoes with wheels
7. Chains or chain-like items
8. Bare midriffs (shorts/pants must rest/hang at or above the hips)
9. Sleeveless shirts, tanktops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, **or low necklines**
10. Mesh, sheer, lace, or see-through clothing
11. Hairstyles and/or hair colors that distract from the educational process
12. Visible undergarments **(which includes no sagging pants)**
13. Coats worn inside the building during the school day
14. Tears or holes in clothing above mid-thigh that reveal skin or clothing worn underneath
15. Associations with tobacco, alcohol, drugs, obscenities, profanities, sex related, weapons, or violence
16. Defamatory toward any person, school, community or nation
17. Gang related or affiliated

Students will be expected to comply with these dress code requirements during school hours or while on school property or during participation in any educational programs that consider standards of dress and grooming as parts of their programs (Examples: field trips, athletic squads, work programs, etc.).

Students found to be in violation of the Dress and Grooming Policy will not be permitted to return until they are in compliance with the Dress and Grooming Policy.

Absence from school or class due to Dress and Grooming Policy violations will be deemed as unexcused. Repeated violations of the Dress and Grooming Policy will not be tolerated. Such repeated offenses may result in more severe consequences up to and including out of school suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion.

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