**Student Dress Code**

CSI schools must adopt a student dress code that:

* Promotes a safe and orderly learning environment.
* Prohibits attire that is disruptive to the educational setting.
* Is nondiscriminatory and aligned with state and federal civil rights protections, including those related to gender identity and expression.
* Allows all students to select from any clothing options outlined in the dress code, regardless of gender or gender identity.
* Affirms and protects students’ rights to express racial, ethnic, and cultural identity through their hairstyles, including protective styles such as braids, locs, twists, Bantu knots, and headwraps.
* Permits students to wear objects of cultural or religious significance during graduation ceremonies.

This sample policy is intended to be used by CSI Schools in drafting their own Student Dress Code Policies. While the sample language provides a helpful starting point, each school’s policy may be tailored to its own practices and preferences within the confines of the requirements outlined in statute and State Board Rule. This document may not be inclusive of everything a school could have in its policy, and schools are encouraged to have all policies reviewed by legal counsel and by CSI prior to adoption.

A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to a quality educational program. School standards on student attire are intended to help students focus on learning, reduce discipline issues, and support a safe and inclusive school climate.

The Board affirms that students have the right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance. All dress code expectations must be implemented in a manner that is gender-neutral, equitable, and nondiscriminatory, consistent with federal and state civil rights laws, including protections for gender identity and expression and cultural or racial identity.

Students must not wear apparel that is disruptive or potentially disruptive to the educational environment or that compromises student health or safety.

**Enforcement**

If a student is found to be in violation of the dress code, they will be required to change into appropriate attire or make arrangements for appropriate clothing to be brought to school. No academic penalties shall be imposed.

On the first offense, the student will receive a written warning and parents/guardians will be notified. On the second offense, the student may be removed from class for the remainder of the day, and a parent conference may be required. Repeated violations may result in further disciplinary measures in accordance with the school discipline policy, provided such actions are equitable and non-punitive in nature.

**Unacceptable Items**

The following clothing, accessories, or adornments are **not permitted** in school buildings, on school grounds, or at school activities:

* Shorts, dresses, skirts or other similar clothing shorter than mid-thigh length
* Sunglasses and/or hats worn inside the building
* Inappropriately sheer, tight or low-cut clothing (e.g., midriffs, halter tops, backless clothing, tube tops, garments made of fishnet, mesh or similar material, muscle tops, etc.) that bare or expose traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the stomach, buttocks, back and chest
* Tank tops or other similar clothing with straps narrower than 1.5 inches in width
* Any inappropriate or disruptive clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, or body adornments that are or contain any advertisement, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that:
  + Refer to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapon
  + Are of a sexual nature
  + By virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute denote membership in gangs which advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior
  + Are obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous
  + Threaten the safety or welfare of any person
  + Promote any activity prohibited by the student code of conduct
  + Otherwise disrupt the teaching-learning process

**Graduation Adornments**

Graduating students are expected to wear the attire customarily worn for the graduation ceremony at the school, with the specific exceptions outlined below.

A student may adorn the cap, gown, or stole customarily worn at their school with traditional objects of tribal regalia and/or objects of cultural or religious significance. Adornments are something worn in addition to, but not replacing, graduation attire, and are not limited to decorating graduation caps. Tribal regalia or objects of cultural or religious significance means formal attire used in recognized practices and traditions of a certain group of people. Adornments cannot include any alphabetical letters other than the student’s name or numerals other than the graduating class (e.g. Class of 2025). Other written statements, phrases, or slogans are not permitted.

Students may be required to request permission to wear an adornment in advance, and the school reserves the right to prohibit any adornments that are obscene, defamatory, fraudulent, profane, threatening, inappropriate, or disruptive or violate the dress code in any other manner. If it is determined that the adornment would cause a substantial disruption based on reliable evidence, the student’s request may be denied. Students who wear adornments that have not been approved may be required to remove the adornment if the adornment is substantially disruptive.

**Gender Neutral Application**

The dress code must be applied consistently to all students, regardless of gender or gender identity. Schools may not differentiate attire expectations based on gender. All students may choose from any of the clothing options permitted under this policy.

**Exceptions**

* Appropriate athletic wear may be worn in physical education classes.
* Students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular or sports activities may wear related attire with prior approval from the coach or sponsor.
* Reasonable accommodations will be made for students’ cultural, religious, medical, or gender identity-related needs.

The school leader, in collaboration with the school accountability committee, may further develop and publish detailed guidelines in the student handbook, provided they remain consistent with this policy and all applicable laws.

**Adopted: XXX, 20XX**

**LEGAL REFS.:**

* C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(J) – Safe Schools Act (Student Dress Code)
* C.R.S. 22-1-142.5 – Graduation Adornments (HB 24-1323)
* C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(ll)(II) – Protective Hairstyles
* HB 25-1312 – Gender-Neutral Dress Code (Kelly Loving Act)