

**Tiger Nation Student Dress Code**  
**Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District**  
**Finalized Fall 2023**

The District recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The District will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools as stated in this Dress Code.

This Dress Code is established to promote a safe and healthy school setting and enhance the educational environment, maintain order, secure the safety of students, establish discipline practices, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes.

This Dress Code supports equitable educational access and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes. The Dress Code is written to ensure the health and safety of all members of Tiger Nation. It does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, living situation, identity or cultural observance. Students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity.

Our values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or hurtful remarks.
- Students should have minimum and only necessary restrictions on the exercise of the student's taste and individuality.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal “distractions” without regulating individuals’ clothing and self expression.
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Students may choose to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.

This Dress Code is designed to prohibit dress/grooming practices that:

- Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school;
- Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- Cause excessive wear or damage to school property; and/or
- Prevent the student from achieving the student's educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The primary responsibility for student attire resides with the student and parent or guardians. The school district is responsible for fostering its mission to prepare all students to become responsible citizens and succeed in college and career.

**DRESS CODE**

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, and all private parts are covered with opaque material.

2. Students Must Wear:

- Bottom; pants/sweatpants/shorts/skirt/dress/leggings
- Shirt with fabric on the front, back, and on the sides under the arms
- Shoes; activity-specific requirements are permitted (for example, students may be required to wear closed toed shoes to play on the playground at recess). Tiger Nation recognizes and recommends that the safest footwear for all students completely encloses the entire foot.

3. Students Cannot Wear:

- Violent language or images or clothing indicating gang identifiers.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of the 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.
- Headgear or hoods that obscure the face and ears.
- Outerwear (coats/jackets) should not be worn unless there are temporary building environment issues.

Members of the athletic teams, bands, and other school groups, when representing the District at a public event, shall dress in accordance with this Dress Code, and members shall further dress in accordance with team/group rules (e.g., wear a band uniform/warm ups, athletic uniform/warm ups).

If a student requires a religious or medical exemption, requests for exemptions from the Code, including the reasons for the request, should be made in writing to the building principal/assistant principal, or through a discussion with the principal/assistant principal.

No student should be disproportionately affected by Dress Code enforcement because of gender, race, body size, or body maturity. Students shall not be required to put on “alternate” clothing that is shaming or displays a message that the Dress Code has been violated. Furthermore, students shall not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. “Shaming” includes but is not limited to kneeling or bending over to check attire fit, measuring straps or skirt length, and asking students to account for their attire in the classroom.

The building principal/assistant principal is designated as the arbiter of student dress and grooming at the building level. Enforcement must be consistent with the Tiger Nation Student Code of Conduct, and Dress Code infractions should be enforced consistently with comparable behavior and conduct violations. Enforcement for students in grades K-5 should be limited to safety and non-violence/non-discrimination and should not include messages predicated on body maturity or “professionalism”.

In order to support District students, staff members are also asked to demonstrate by example and present neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance, consistent with Board Policy.

Students who violate the Dress Code will not be admitted to class, but with class disruption limited to the greatest extent possible under the circumstances, and may be disciplined in accordance with the Tiger Nation Student Code of Conduct.

If a student disagrees with a principal's/assistant principal's decision concerning enforcement of the Dress Code (i.e., with respect to the student's compliance with the Dress Code), the student may appeal the principal's/assistant principal's decision to the Superintendent, who will meet with the student within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the student's disagreement. The Superintendent will issue a written decision on the matter within five (5) school days of the meeting. The Superintendent's decision shall be final. Due process in the event of student discipline shall also be followed, consistent with Board Policy.