

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138  
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, DO CONFERENCE ROOM  
B122  
38705 GRAND AVENUE  
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2022  
4:30 PM**

**AGENDA**

- I. Policies to be Discussed
  - A. Policy 504-NB - Student Dress and Appearance 2
  - B. Policy 530 - Immunization Requirements 6

# STUDENTS

## Student Dress and Appearance

504-NB

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards.

It is the policy of the North Branch Area School Board that the student and their parent/guardian hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items (e.g. backpacks, book bags).

Schools are responsible for ensuring that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

B. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing appropriate for the weather.
2. Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
3. Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).

#### Universal Dress Code

- Students must wear:
  - Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, etc.);
  - Bottom (pants, shorts, skirt, dress, etc.); and
  - Footwear.
- This policy permits additional student attire requirements when necessary to ensure safety in certain academic settings (e.g. physical activity, science or CTE courses).
- Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:
  - Are pornographic, contain threats, or that promote illegal or violent activity
  - Promote conduct such as the unlawful use of violent weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia;
  - Demonstrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech
  - Target groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups;
  - Intentionally show private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks). Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material;

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North Branch Independent School District No. 138: District Policy #504-NB

**Adopted:** February 12, 1998

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- Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose); or Demonstrate gang association/affiliation.
  - Attire worn in observance of a student's religion is not subject to this policy.
- C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. "Short shorts," skimpy tank tops, tops that expose the midriff, and other clothing that is not in keeping with community standards.
  2. Clothing bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar, or obscene.
  3. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.
  4. Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413.
  5. Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.
- D. Decisions regarding headgear, including hats or head coverings, will be made under the leadership of each building principal.
- E. The intention of this policy is not to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, or do not advocate violence or harassment against others.
- F. "Gang," as defined in this policy, means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. "Pattern of gang activity" means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.

### III. PROCEDURES

- A. ~~When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or~~

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poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. Parents/guardians will be notified.

Principals are required to ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the guidelines of this policy.

- Staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid dress-coding students in front of other students.
  - Students shall not be disciplined or removed from class as a consequence for wearing attire in violation of this policy unless the attire creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment, poses a hazard to the health or safety of others, or factors into a student behavior rule violation such as malicious harassment or the prohibition on harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
  - Further, no student shall be referred to as "a distraction" due to their appearance or attire.
  - Typical consequences for a violation of this policy include parent/ guardian contact or conference and the directive to cover, change, or remove the non-complying attire. A student may be instructed to leave their classroom briefly to change clothes.
  - The Principal or their designee should notify a student's parent/ guardian of the school's response to violations of the student dress policy.
  - The Superintendent or their designee is authorized to develop procedures in order to implement this policy if needed.
- B. The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/guardians.
- C. Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval.

### Legal References:

U. S. Const., amend. I  
*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)  
*B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist.*, 554 F.3d 734 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009)  
*Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist.*, 540 F.3d 752 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008)  
*Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 110 F.3d 1303 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997)  
*B.H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist.*, 725 F.3d 293 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 2013)  
*D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafon*, 217 Fed.Appx. 518 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2007)  
*Hardwick v. Heyward*, 711 F.3d 426 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013)  
*Madrid v. Anthony*, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)  
*McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3*, 804 F.Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)

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*Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ.*, 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D. N.C. 1999)  
*Olesen v. Bd. of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228*, 676 F.Supp. 820 (N.D. Ill. 1987)

**Cross References:** NB Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
NB Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)

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## Immunization Requirements

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### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to require that all students receive the proper immunizations as mandated by law to ensure the health and safety of all students.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

All students are required to provide proof of immunization, or appropriate documentation exempting the student from such immunization, and such other data necessary to ensure that the student is free from any communicable diseases, as a condition of enrollment.

### III. STUDENT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. ~~No student may be enrolled or remain enrolled, on a full-time, part-time, or shared-time basis, in any elementary or secondary school within the school district until the student or the student's parent or guardian has submitted to the designated school district administrator the required proof of immunization. Prior to the student's first date of attendance, the~~ The student or the student's parent or guardian shall provide to the designated school district administrator **in a timely manner** one of the following statements:
1. a statement from a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or a public clinic which provides immunizations (hereinafter "medical statement"), affirming that the student received the immunizations required by law, consistent with medically acceptable standards; or
  2. a medical statement affirming that the student received the primary schedule of immunizations required by law and has commenced a schedule of the remaining required immunizations, indicating the month and year each immunization was administered, consistent with medically acceptable standards.
- B. The statement of a parent or guardian of a student or an emancipated student may be substituted for the medical statement. If such a statement is substituted, this statement must indicate the month and year each immunization was administered. Upon request, the designated school district administrator will provide information to the parent or guardian of a student or an emancipated student of the dosages required for each vaccine according to the age of the student.
- C. The parent or guardian of persons receiving instruction in a home school shall submit one of the statements set forth in Section III.A. or III.B., above, or statement of immunization set forth in Section IV., below, to the superintendent of the school district by October 1 of the first year of their home schooling in Minnesota and the grade 7 year.
- D. When there is evidence of the presence of a communicable disease, or when required by any state or federal agency and/or state or federal law, students and/or their parents or guardians

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may be required to submit such other health care data as is necessary to ensure that the student has received any necessary immunizations and/or is free of any communicable diseases. No student may be enrolled or remain enrolled in any elementary or secondary school within the school district until the student or the student's parent or guardian has submitted the required data.

- E. The school district may allow a student transferring into a school a maximum of 30 days to submit a statement specified in Section III.A. or III.B., above, or Section IV., below. Students who do not provide the appropriate proof of immunization or the required documentation related to an applicable exemption of the student from the required immunization within the specified time frames shall be excluded from school until such time as the appropriate proof of immunizations or exemption documentation has been provided.
- F. If a person who is not a Minnesota resident enrolls in a school district online learning course or program that delivers instruction to the person only by computer and does not provide any teacher or instructor contact time or require classroom attendance, the person is not subject to the immunization, statement, and other requirements of this policy.

### IV. EXEMPTIONS FROM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Students will be exempt from the foregoing immunization requirements under the following circumstances:

- A. The parent or guardian of a minor student or an emancipated student submits a signed medical statement affirming that the immunization of the student is contraindicated for medical reasons or that laboratory confirmation of the presence of adequate immunity exists; or
- B. The parent or guardian of a minor student or an emancipated student submits his or her notarized statement stating the student has not been immunized because of the conscientiously held beliefs of the parent, guardian or student.

### V. NOTICE OF IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. The school district will develop and implement a procedure to:
  - 1. notify parents and students of the immunization and exemption requirements by use of a form approved by the Department of Health;
  - 2. notify parents and students of the consequence for failure to provide required documentation regarding immunizations;
  - 3. review student health records to determine whether the required information has been provided; and
  - 4. make reasonable arrangements to send a student home when the immunization requirements have not been met and advise the student and/or the student's parent or

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guardian of the conditions for re-enrollment.

[See Attachments A, B, C, and D.]

- B. The notice provided shall contain written information describing the exemptions from immunization as permitted by law. The notice shall be in a font size at least equal to the font size and style as the immunization requirements and on the same page as the immunization requirements.

### VI. IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

- A. The school district will maintain a file containing the immunization records for each student in attendance at the school district for at least five years after the student attains the age of majority.
- B. Upon request, the school district may exchange immunization data with persons or agencies providing services on behalf of the student. Immunization data is private student data and disclosure of such data shall be governed by Policy 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.
- C. The designated school district administrator will assist a student and/or the student's parent or guardian in the transfer of the student's immunization file to the student's new school within 30 days of the student's transfer.
- D. Upon request of a public or private post-secondary educational institution, the designated school district administrator will assist in the transfer of the student's immunization file to the post-secondary educational institution.

### VII. OTHER

Within 60 days of the commencement of each new school term, the school district will forward a report to the Commissioner of the Department of Education stating the number of students attending each school in the school district, including the number of students receiving instruction in a home school, the number of students who have not been immunized, and the number of students who received an exemption. The school district also will forward a copy of all exemption statements received by the school district to the Commissioner of the Department of Health.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (Health Standards; Immunizations; School Children)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.17 (School Board Responsibilities)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.29 (Health Records; Children of School Age)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.3351 (Immunization Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.441 (Tuberculosis Screening in Schools)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.442 (Testing in Schools)  
Minn. Rules Parts 4604.0100-4604.1020 (Immunization)  
*McCarthy v. Ozark Sch. Dist.*, 359 F.3d 1029 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004)  
Op. Atty. Gen. 169-W (July 23, 1980)

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Op. Atty. Gen. 169-W (Jan. 17, 1968)

**Cross References:** NB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

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