

# Policy 504

## Student Dress and Appearance



HEARTLAND LAKES COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL EXISTS TO EMPOWER  
SCHOLARS TO:  
BRAVELY LIVE THEIR TRUTH,  
TO BECOME WISE STEWARDS OF  
THE LAND AND RESOURCES  
AND TO IGNITE LASTING  
CURIOSITY THAT LEADS TO  
POSITIVE CHANGE IN THEIR  
SCHOOL, THEIR COMMUNITIES,  
AND THEMSELVES.

<b>Adoption:</b>	November 27, 2023
<b>Revision History</b>	
<b>Last Board Review:</b> January 20, 2025	
<b>Next Board Review:</b> November 2027	
<b>Review Frequency:</b> Every 3 Years (per Policy 208)	

### 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.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. It is the policy of Heartland Lakes Community School (HLCS) 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).
- C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Clothing bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar, or obscene.
  - 2. Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.

3. 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 HLCS's Harassment and Violence Policy 413.
  4. Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.
- D. It is not the intention of this policy 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.
- E. "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 administration, a student's appearance, grooming or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or 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 as an unexcused absence. Parents/guardians will be notified.
- 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 administration for approval.

*Note: The applicability and enforceability of this policy 504 is limited to, and qualified by, Minnesota or Federal law that, at the time any such circumstance within the scope of the policy arises, may be contrary to some aspect or all of the policy.*