



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Dress Code

December 12, 2019





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# Governing law that guides policy

# Board Policy

- Ed Code 35183
  - Provides School Districts (Trustees) with the authority to implement a dress code policy, school uniforms, and prohibit certain types of dress
- Board Policy 5132 - Dress and Grooming
  - last amended in 2003
  - Admin. Reg. 5132 - Dress and Grooming
    - Each site develops its own dress code based on the District Policy



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# Examining Board Policy 5132

# Board Policy 5132

- Current policy is consistent with neighboring school districts
  - (Sunnyvale, LASD, MVLA, Palo Alto, Santa Clara)
- Currently there is no tangible evidence that schools, especially middle schools, are suspending students
  - No infractions entered since 2013

# Current Status of Dress Code Policy

- Every school has a dress code
- All schools except one school have not recently asked parents for input

# Board Policy 5132

- MVWSD adopted a policy in 2003. Since then CSBA has recommended changes to the policy
- Advocacy has occurred over the past couple of years to have a dress code that does not discriminate against girls
- Concern was brought up by Trustee(s) and several parents



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# Alameda and Oregon NOW policy



# Alameda New School Dress Code Policy

- Alameda's dress code policy modeled after a suggested policy created by the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women
- Implemented in Summer of 2019 on a "trial basis"
- Feedback from parents, students and staff will be collected and reviewed throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

# Alameda New School Dress Code Policy

- Dress code policy boiled down to 3 categories:
  - What students *must* wear
  - What students *may* wear
  - What students *can't* wear
- No longer requires teachers and staff to “subjectively judge or measure students’ bodies or clothing.”



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# Considerations

# Things to consider

- More data is needed to determine if our policies are adversely targeting certain groups of students
- According to reports, Alameda's policy was revised due to confusion around language and enforcement
- ACLU states that any change in dress code policy requires a 6-month notification period

— <https://www.aclunc.org/our-work/know-your-rights/school-dress-codes-and-uniforms>



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# Questions

# Questions for the Board

- Board Policy 5132 needs to be updated
  - Is it the direction of the Board to amend BP 5132 beyond what CSBA (attached to item) recommends?
- With respect to the ACLU's position to 6-month lead time for schools
  - Does the Board intend to address this item by the end of February?
- Is it the Board's interest that all schools have a consistent policy?