

**Central Union High School District**  
**Student Dress Code and Behavior Guidelines**  
**Board Policy 5132 (a), (b), & (c)**

The Central Union High School District strongly believes in and supports the philosophy that all students have the right to a safe and secure school structure, learning climate, and academic environment that is second to none. In pursuit of this mission, we incorporate policies and regulations that define standards for student behavior based on widely accepted morals and values that help define appropriate dress, grooming, and behavior. These guidelines will foster the development of good citizenship and promote a well-balanced, highly skilled and prepared graduate for the world of work or the pursuit of a career.

The guidelines below define appropriate “student attire and personal grooming” for the purpose of fostering good dress and grooming habits in students, enhance classroom decorum, discourage disruption of classroom and school atmosphere by eliminating potential disturbances so as not to interfere with the educational process. All students are expected to attend school in clean, neat and appropriate student attire and shall observe and practice the following good dress and grooming guidelines and habits:

1. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed
2. Shoes must be worn at all times.
3. All clothing and other items must be free of any lettering, printing or graphics that represent or depicts any of the following:
  - Crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive language
  - Slogans and/or pictures that infer and/or promote drugs, tobacco and alcoholic beverages, including brand names
  - Membership or support of any group(s), gang(s) or the occult that advocate any substance use, violence or disruptive behavior
  - Language graphics, pictures or drawings that degrade others based on gender, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation or other related factors.
4. Dress attire must be appropriate and in good taste for school environment.
  - Dresses, skirts and shorts must reach the fingertips with arms at sides / cannot be shorter than mid thigh.
  - Blouses, shirts, tops or T-shirts must cover the midriff (stomach area), chest/cleavage, back or undergarments. Tops must have straps at least 2” wide and these must continue to the back of the garment, which must at least reach the shoulder blade. “See through” blouses, shirts or dresses must have a shirt, camisole or slip underneath for modesty. No fish net tops, muscle shirts or oversized tank tops. Shirts may not be excessively large or long. They must not fall beyond the fingertips.
  - No jerseys may be worn whatsoever. No clothing that depicts any affiliation with any professional team, any college or any rival high school may be worn. This includes shirts with names of any teams, players, colleges or any numbers.
  - Pants or shorts shall not be so long, short, baggy, or tight as to draw any unnecessary attention to the individual and/or interfere with normal school activities. They may be a maximum of 4” larger than the waist (2” when doubled) and they may be a maximum of 5” doubled behind the knee
  - All clothing items including pants, shorts, and overalls must be properly worn and must be free of alterations such as splits, frays, holes and rolled pant cuffs, gloves with cut-off fingers, or cut-off or rolled shorts. Students must fasten overall straps: they may not “sag” at the waist and may not wear long shorts with high socks. This dress usually signals gang affiliation.
  - Caps, hats and visors for sun protective purposes are permissible with the following restrictions: 1) must be worn appropriately and be forward facing and 2) may be worn outdoors only. Bandannas, hairnets, shower caps and other kinds of hair coverings are not allowed.

In fostering a safe educational environment, the Governing Board shall focus on keeping District schools and students free from the threat or harmful influences of any group(s) or gang(s) which advocate substance use, violence, or disruptive behavior. Therefore, we prohibit on our campuses the use of gestures that symbolize membership to gangs such as “hand signs” or threatening body language such as “mad dogging” (staring another person down) or the possession of the following items:

1. Weapons, guns and knives (or toy imitations), cake cutters, screw drivers, multi-finger rings (brass knuckles), laser pointers and/or other items that can be used to cause great bodily injury.
2. Explosive devices and other dangerous items such as; caps, explosive pens, fire-crackers, fireballs and cherry bombs.
3. Chains and/or chains used as bracelets, necklaces or attached to belt loops, wallets, or pants.
4. Drugs, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, matches and look alike items.
5. Electronic devices such as: televisions, radios, cassette or disc-player (for special occasions may be brought to school only with the prior written permission of the principal or an assistant principal).
6. Electronic devices such as cellular telephones or beepers may be brought to school, however **they are not to be used or to ring (must be off during instructional time, passing periods or free periods.** Cell phones may be used only before school, lunch time or after school.
7. Apparel, jewelry, accessories, notebooks or backpacks with graffiti, web belts, military type buckles, belt buckles with initials and/or names, manner of grooming or gesture, or any other attribute that connotes membership in such group(s) or gang(s) as described above.

Coaches and teachers in specialized classes such as Agriculture-Welding or specific sports activities may request modification of dress and grooming guidelines provided herein with the collaboration and approval of the site principal.

Student violations of this Dress Code and Behavior Guidelines shall be subject to the discipline guidelines developed at each school site. Parents shall be contacted in cases of repeated violations and shall be encouraged to support our efforts to provide a safe and secure school environment.

All school faculty and staff are expected to set an example by modeling the basic notions outlined by this Dress Code and Behavior Guidelines.

Legal References: California Administrative Code, Title 5  
302 Pupils to be Neat and Clean before Entering School  
E.C. 44807 Duty Concerning Conduct of Pupils  
E.C. 61145.5 Organizations, Associations  
E.C. 48907 Freedom of Speech Press

