

To Whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to address concerns about the enforcement of exclusionary dress codes. It is important as educators to create an inclusive environment for all students to express themselves in a way that feels true to who they are.

According to the ACLU and government laws,

“Public schools can have dress codes, but under federal law dress codes **can’t treat students differently based on their gender**, force students to conform to sex stereotypes, or censor particular viewpoints. Schools can’t create a dress code based on the stereotype that only girls can wear some types of clothes and only boys can wear other types of clothes. For example, your school can require that skirts must be a certain length, but it cannot require that some students wear skirts and prohibit others from doing so based on the students’ sex or gender expression. That also applies to pants, ties, or any other clothing associated with traditional gender roles.”

Any deduction of grades or disciplinary action taken against students for dressing in accordance with their gender identity is a violation of laws laid out by the government. It is in the best interest of all students to reform dress codes to account for gender queer, trans, and gender non-conforming identities.

For example, as opposed to breaking down dress codes by gender, present options of suitable clothing for all students:

“Acceptable attire includes black, pink, or skin tone tights, black fitted leggings, black or white fitted shirt, black leotard”

For more information, visit:

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/students-rights/#can-my-school-tell-me-what-i-can-and-cannot-wear-based-on-my-gender>