

FAQ for Parents and Families

Gallup-McKinley County Schools Student Dress Code (Policy J-2361 JICA-R)

Q: Do I need to buy new clothes for my child because of this change?

A: In most cases, no. The revision removes the prior restriction limiting pants materials to khakis, cargo pants, dress pants, capris, or jeans. Any pants, shorts, capris, skirts, or jeans your child already owns are allowed if they meet the coverage and safety rules. The one item worth double-checking is the length of shorts and skirts (see next question).

Q: Is there a new rule about how short shorts or skirts can be?

A: Yes, this is new. Shorts, skirts, dresses, and skorts must extend to at least mid-thigh, which the policy describes as no more than 4 inches above the knee.

Q: Can my child still wear jeans with small rips or holes?

A: Generally, yes, with one change: the policy now draws the line at the knee. Minor rips or holes above the knee should be patched. Rips or holes below the knee do not need a patch. Note that shirts should not have cuts, rips, or slits.

Q: Can my child wear sweatpants?

A: Yes. Sweatpants are now allowed for students at all grade levels, not just 3Y–2nd grade, if they meet the same coverage and safety standards as other pants. Pajama-type attire is still not allowed. Sweatpants and jogging pants are also permitted during P.E. and athletics.

Q: My child wears their hair in braids, locs, or another protective style, or wears a religious or cultural head covering. Does this policy affect them?

A: This policy adds new, explicit protection for your child. Protective hairstyles (including braids, locs, twists, coils/curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, afros, weaves, and wigs) and cultural or religious headdresses (including hijabs, head wraps, turbans, kippot, and traditional beadwork or regalia) may not be restricted, and a student may not be disciplined for wearing them, consistent with New Mexico state law (NMSA 1978 § 22-5-4.3).

Q: Can my child wear a mask or other face covering?

A: Face coverings that prevent a student from being readily identified are not allowed, except when worn for an approved religious, medical, or public health reason. This is a new rule. If your child needs a face covering for one of those reasons, contact your child's school.

Q: What happens if my child is told their clothing does not meet the dress code?

A: Your child will first be offered an alternate item to wear, where available, rather than being removed from class. If that does not resolve it, the school will contact you to bring a change of clothing. Your child should not lose instructional time over a first, non-safety-related issue. Persistent or safety-related violations are referred to a designated administrator.

Q: When does this take effect, and where can I get more information?

A: The revised policy is now in effect. Watch for additional communication from your child's school.