

American Muslim Advisory Council

September 13, 2023

Re: Accommodations for Muslim Students' Adherence to Religious Dress

To Whom It May Concern,

Muslim students practice the religion of Islam, and their religious observance may involve adhering to specific dress codes rooted in the principles of modesty and respect, which apply to both men and women.

Muslim men and boys may choose to wear clothing that covers them from their navels to their knees. Some may choose to wear a small head covering, called a kufi, and some may choose to grow out their beards.

Muslim women and girls may choose to wear loose clothing that covers their body. Many women and girls wear the headscarf, called a hijab, which covers their hair.

While Muslim students' dress may differ from the school dress code, uniforms, gym uniforms, and sports uniforms, the First Amendment of the United States guarantees Muslim students the right to wear clothing to observe their religious practices. We request that the school provides exemptions and reasonable accommodations for Muslim students from school-mandated dress codes and uniforms.

Additionally, we recognize that students who wear visible markers of being Muslim are at higher risk of being targeted for faith-based bullying from peers and adults. We ask that the school remains vigilant in protecting students from harm and respecting their rights.

This <u>resource for educators</u> contains more information about Islamic religious practices. Please let us know if you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you,

Sabina Mohyuddin

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Executive Director, American Muslim Advisory Council