

Early Light Academy
Dress Code Policy
Approval Date: August 14, 2020



The purpose of Early Light Academy's Dress Code Policy is to help promote school spirit and unity, prevent socio-economic discrimination, and create a learning environment free of unnecessary distractions. Early Light Academy has an inclusive school culture. If any portion of this policy goes against established personal cultural or religious practices, exceptions are allowed at the discretion of the Director.

Early Light Academy has adopted the following dress standards for all students during school hours. All clothing must be unadorned, clean, in good condition, and sized appropriately. Gang related items and colors, as well as torn, cut off, and sheer clothing, will not be permitted at school. No wording, graphics, or designs are allowed with the exception of the official school logo, unless otherwise specified below.

Collared shirts paired with dress code bottoms are standard student dress Monday through Thursday in the approved colors, inspired by "Sparks" the mascot, below. School spirit dress is allowed, as specified, on early release days; Spirit attire can be mixed and matched with standard student dress on all early release days.



Shirts

Approved solid colors: white, navy blue, pale blue, orange, light gray, gray, pale yellow and yellow.



- Must have a collar (any style); School logo optional
- Styles may vary; Must be appropriate in fit and length; Shirts must be long enough to be tucked in, but are not required to be tucked
- May be long or short sleeved; Layering with a solid undershirt of any color is permitted
- No neon hues
- Heathering (intermixed dark and light threads) permitted on gray tops only
- Solid sweaters, vests, and sweatshirts in the approved colors are acceptable as layers over a collared dress code shirt; Sweaters/sweatshirts may have hoods (worn down when inside)
- Only "PEAK"-purchased sweatshirts are allowed on standard dress code days.

Bottoms

Approved solid colors: white, navy blue, light gray, gray, tan, and black.



- May have plain or pleated front
- Boys: choice of pants or shorts
- Girl: choice of pants, capris, shorts, and skirts
- Jumpers with a collared shirt underneath as well as one-piece dresses with a collar are also approved in *all* approved dress code colors, including tan, navy blue, white, black, and gray; Leggings may be worn *under* skirts or dresses
- Styles may vary.

Accessories

- Socks, tights, and leggings may be solid or patterned
- Shoes must be appropriately safe for school
- Body piercing is limited to earrings only

Outerwear

- Includes backpacks, hats, sunglasses, and non-dress code attire
- May be worn to and from school, during recess, and during field trips
- Outerwear, including non-dress code sweatshirts and sweaters, should be removed before class
- Students not observing dress code at the time of the bell signal are considered out of dress code; Students should use the bell as their reminder and not wait for school staff to remind them to comply with dress code expectations. Repeat violations will be referred to Administration.

Jr. High Physical Education (Gym clothes will be required for Jr. High athletic classes and activities.)

- Athletic bottoms in the approved colors are required
- Plain t-shirts or spirit shirts in the approved colors are required
- Tennis or athletic shoes are required.

School Spirit Dress Days

On Wednesdays and Thursdays and on early out days, including all Fridays and other early release days as specified annually on the school calendar, school spirit attire is permitted with the following guidelines:

- Collared tops in standard dress code styles in any solid color
- Bottoms in standard dress code styles in any solid color; Denim jeans in any solid color

- All school spirit t-shirts, sweatshirts, and sweaters in any color

School “spirit wear” is periodically available to purchase through PEAK, our parent organization. Spirit wear can also be coordinated through individual classrooms, clubs, athletics, and other school sponsored activity groups with purchasing handled through a parent volunteer or the main office. Official ELA Style Guide branding is required when using the official school logo and/or mascot. Sweatshirts for school-sponsored clubs, sports, and activities are approved to wear on spirit days.

PEAK Dress Down Days (\$)

Our parent organization sponsors a monthly dress down day as a fundraiser. Students can turn in 20 boxtops or \$2 the morning of the specified monthly dress down day in exchange for a wristband and permission to wear attire that is not normally allowed during the month, including clothing with school- appropriate styles and designs.

Other Dress Guidelines and Information

Dress code items may be purchased at any location as long as they meet the criteria and colors described in this policy. We expect some color variations but caution against major deviations.

School logo collared shirts, sweaters, and sweatshirts may be available to purchase through some vendors, such as Lands End.

The Director may, from time to time, authorize other types of clothing and/or accessories to be allowed on a particular school day (for example during Spirit Week, This Day in History, and other atypical school days). Guidelines will be articulated in advance for any atypical dress days.

Fall school pictures are always in standard student dress code attire for yearbooks and class pictures; Spring pictures are “free dress” with students able to dress up or down as long as they observe the above dress down guidelines.

Not Allowed The following items are never allowed unless explicitly specified:

- Adornments
- Holes, rips, and tears whether manufactured or due to wear
- Faded color
- Color deviations from the intended approved colors (i.e. no teal/turquoise, no coral/pink)
- Tank tops, halter-tops, midriff shirts
- Vulgar language and/or inappropriate graphics, even on “free dress” or “dress down” days
- Attempts to conceal or cover up any dress code violations
- Leather, vinyl, and/or nylon fabrics
- Knit bottoms such as sweatpants, yoga pants, and exercise pants outside of PE classes
- Leggings as pants
- Visible underclothing (i.e. under white attire)
- Inappropriate shoes, including but not limited to: sandals, slippers, flip-flops, crocs, backless shoes, as well as shoes with wheels, open toes, and high-heels.

- Extreme or distracting makeup, hairstyles, belts, and jewelry, including gauges and plugs
- Head coverings, masks, or weapons

Personal Electronics

- Cell phones and other personal electronics, including headphones, should be turned off and not visible or used during class time, unless instructed by a teacher as part of a structured lesson previously approved by the Director
- Personal electronics brought on campus fall under the School's acceptable electronics usage guidelines; Inappropriate use of school or personal electronics comes with severe consequences

ELA Volunteer Dress Guidelines

In addition to a student dress code, ELA encourages volunteers to dress appropriately. Volunteers are encouraged to dress modestly and underclothing should not be visible.

ELA Staff Dress Guidelines

ELA staff dress guidelines are addressed in the Employee Handbook.