

Date: July 13, 2008

Subject: **Dress Requirements for Muslim Students**

Dear Principal:

There are a few requirements necessary to meet the Islamic dress code which may fall as religious exemptions to the new MNPS Dress Code (Policy #1737). Although the head covering worn due to religious practices is allowed under the policy, "Approved head coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy," we have also addressed this item. A few of the Islamic dress requirements are listed below:

- Hijab (head cover that covers up through the chest) - It is required for all the Muslim women to keep their Hijab on as a part of religious practice at all times
- Gym Clothes – Due to women allowed to cover everything except hands and face, shorts for women is not allowed. The female students will need to be allowed to wear long loose fitting gym pants. As for the male students, boys are allowed to wear shorts provided the shorts reach past the knees. Otherwise, they will need to wear a gym pants. On the same lines of gym class, due to modesty, showering in public baths is not permitted, unless, private showers are available. Likewise, changing in front of others is another area of sensitivity for the Muslim students.
- Loose Clothes – Due to the need to follow a modest dress code that does not reveal too much shape, Muslims are required to wear clothes that are loose enough not to reveal specific parts of the body. To this effect, women may be wearing a cloak (loose outer garment) that covers the body, and in many cases, may prefer not to tuck in shirts.

Please allow these accommodations. If you have any questions, please contact Muslim Society of Memphis at (901) 685-8906 or at (901) 849-0440.

On behalf of the Muslim Society of Memphis, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Imam Maleck Sarr

**Muslim Society of Memphis**

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