

To
Appleton Area School District
131 E Washington St. Suite 1A
Appleton, WI 54911
November 13th, 2019



I feel that I speak for many of my fellow students when I say that I am opposed to the archaic ‘no hat’ policy. I myself, as a student, have observed many arguments between staff and students over this policy, most of which result only in petty and hostile interactions. I wish for a dignified and realistic conversation between staff, students and administration to take place with the aim of re-evaluating this nearly quarter-century old policy.

I wish to articulate the students’ point of view in a respectful manner: As it stands, no student whatsoever is allowed to wear a hat in class. The opinion of the typical student is that this policy is obsolete and restricts our reasonable rights to non-disruptive freedom of expression as they are defined in the *Tinker v. Des Moines (1974)* and *Morse v. Frederick (2007)* Supreme Court cases. This policy, instituted in a time when the wearing of hats symbolized an allegiance to an illegal gang, no longer serves any public safety interest. By telling students that they cannot wear clothes which, outside of the AASD’s school environments, would be considered normal, their human dignity and right to self-expression are being violated. Students, who in many cases are well on their way towards becoming adults, ought to be free to wear a hat, *especially but not exclusively*, hats without brims, if they so choose, so long as said hat remains within the standard dress code (no drug/alcohol references, etc.) and does not disrupt class.

I sincerely hope that a free and open dialogue can be established between the two opposing sides in this argument, and that this situation can be resolved in the spirit of American personal liberties and freedoms.

With respect and optimism,

Logan McGrath, senior at Appleton North High School
(mcg517882@stu.aasd.k12.wi.us) and Cowboyist Party Chairman, on behalf of the AASD’s student body.