



Halloween Costume Guidelines



Dressing up for Halloween is a great way to have fun and build community; however this can also create situations where students inadvertently dress in a way that is deemed problematic and even hurtful. Please talk with your student to make sure that their selected costume does not portray a stereotyped image of a culture or group of people. It is important to be intentional and thoughtful about costume choice. Being proactive can help all of us to avoid uncomfortable situations at school and can help us ensure that Halloween is a time where all students feel safe and honored. In addition, please help students to make sure that their costume is not offensive to any racial, ethnic or religious group, any people with disabilities or illnesses, or any other group of people. While students might choose to dress as a famous person or character whose identity is different than their own, please reinforce the importance of not darkening skin or using makeup to change a child's skin color to match the person who they are dressing up to be. Students may be unaware of the long history these traditions have of causing harm and need our help in their understanding.

Some examples of costumes that can be deemed problematic include: Native American costumes involving headdresses or feathers, dressing as a homeless person, dressing in a "fat suit", dressing as a person with any physical or mental disability, or dressing in any costume that portrays a narrow or negative stereotype about a specific ethnicity, religion or race. If you are looking for further resources in order to better understand this issue, a great place to start is the #IAmNotACostume Campaign which can be found at: <http://www.lspirg.org/costumes>.

In addition, please be mindful of the items below:

1. No group costumes-sharing the same costume (2 or more people, i.e. horse, giraffe, etc.).
2. Masks: The only masks allowed are the face coverings we wear to keep us safe and healthy. No other costume masks are allowed.
3. No costumes that are violent, sexually offensive, or have a reference to drugs/alcohol will be permitted.
4. No roller skates/roller blades/skate boards.
5. Costumes should not interfere with your regular classroom activities (i.e. can't sit down, etc.) and students should not bring props to school.
6. Costumes should be put on at home. There will be no school time provided for changing into costumes.
7. If colored hair spray or make-up is part of your costume, it should be kept to a minimum and put on at home prior to coming to school. Colored hair spray and make-up products should not be brought to school.

