

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Category: R

Related Policies: JIC

The Board recognizes that student individual dress is primarily a parental responsibility that should reflect concern for health and safety of students, staff and others. When the dress of an individual student constitutes a health problem, is unsuitable for school wear, is a danger to any person, or causes a substantial and material disruption or substantial disturbance, the principal shall take appropriate action to correct the situation.

The dress code within each school shall be administered fairly, consistently, and equally to all students. The dress code shall not be enforced in a manner that discriminates against a particular viewpoint or results in a disproportionate application of the dress code relative to students' gender, gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, household income, or body type or size.

Enforcement must accommodate clothing worn by students as an expression of religious beliefs (e.g., head scarves) and worn by students with disabilities (e.g., protective helmets). Enforcement shall not indirectly discriminate against students based on hair texture and or hairstyles, including, but not limited to, braids, locks, and twists.

District Standards:

A. Students must wear:

1. A Shirt/dress (with fabric in front, back, under the arms, with straps/sleeves and covering the mid-section);
2. Pants, skirt, leggings, shorts, etc.; and
3. Shoes.

B. Students must not wear:

4. Tops that do not completely cover the mid-section;
5. Caps, hats, and other head gear;
6. Clothing depicting hate speech, offensive, vulgar, or racist language or pictures;
7. And clothing that glorifies, encourages or promotes the use of alcohol or drugs.

Building Principals shall assure that any District or School standards are included in the Student Handbook and otherwise communicated to students annually.

Notwithstanding District or School standards, some courses and school activities may require adjustments to attire and hairstyle or may require specific attire to ensure safety during academic activities (e.g., science labs or PE).

Students who violate this policy will be given an opportunity to correct the situation by either changing the clothing, removing the clothing (if appropriate), wearing it inside-out, or other means as determined by the principal so the student is in compliance with this policy. Students who repeatedly violate this policy may face more severe punishment, including detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

School staff shall not confront students on dress-code violations in a manner that unnecessarily disciplines or publicly shames the student. When a school staff member or school administrator discusses a dress code violation with a student, it is recommended that another adult should be present and at least one of the two adults should be the same sex as the student.

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – September 27, 2018

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – October 16, 2018

Pittsburg School Board: Adopted – October 22, 2018

Stewartstown School Board: Adopted – October 8, 2018

Pittsburg School Board: Revised - November 14, 2022

Colebrook School Board: Revised - November 15, 2022

Clarksville School Board: Revised - December 12, 2022

Columbia School Board: Revised - January 3, 2023

Stewartstown School Board: Revised - January 4, 2023