

# Chester County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Standard Dress Code Grades 6-12</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.310</b>	Issued Date: <b>04/11/24</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.310</b>	Issued: <b>09/22/22</b>

## Presently

The Tennessee State Board of Education suggests that the criteria for a standard dress policy adopted by local boards of education should require standard dress clothing to be:

- Simple
- Appropriate
- Readily available
- Inexpensive

Chester County School Board Policy # 6.310 states the following: "Students shall dress and groom in a clean, neat, and modest manner so as not to distract or interfere with the operation of the school."

## Rationale for Change

The Chester County School System has the responsibility to enhance the educational focus, provide a safe and secure school, and establish an orderly learning environment. It is also our belief that teaching students a proper and professional standard of dress it will aid our students in having a greater opportunity for success upon exiting our schools as well as having a positive effect on the student's self-esteem. In addition, standard dress will enable school personnel to easily recognize outside intruders and deter gang affiliation and activity. Changing fads and trends put increasing pressure on parents, students, and staff as well as deter them from the educational mission of the schools.

*The Manual on School Uniforms published by the U.S. Department of Education states the following as potential benefits of standard dress.*

## Promoting school safety

- Easily identify intruders in school
- Decrease violence and theft
- Minimize overt symbols of gang activity

## Improving discipline

A standard dress policy alone will not solve all the problems of school discipline, but it can be one positive contributing factor to discipline and safety.

(TN State Board of Education-Uniform Clothing for Public School Students #4.203)

### Enhancing the learning environment

- Help students concentrate on their work
- Instill a sense of school spirit, social pride, and social acceptance
- Aid students in resisting peer pressure
- Test scores increase due to students being more focused
- Reduce classroom distractions

### DRESS AND APPEARANCE

**Shirts** - Only collared shirts (crew-neck, polo-style or turtle-neck collars\*) will be permitted. Only the top button may be unbuttoned. *\*A turtleneck is a high, tubular collar that fits closely to the neck.*

1. Must have a collar.
2. Must be a solid color.
3. Must be the appropriate size.
4. May be long or short sleeves.
5. May be worn tucked or untucked
6. May have school-approved names/logos or no logos. Brand names can represent the school approved logos when the logos are no larger than business card size (2" x 3.5") and shall not be considered offensive\* by the school administration. Offensive brands/logos are further defined, but not limited to:
  - Depictions of messages/symbols that are lewd, vulgar, obscene, plainly offensive, violent, sexually explicit, ethnically defaming, or that refer to items that are illegal in general or illegal specifically for underage students.
  - Promotion of the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products.
  - Sexually suggestive messages.
  - Depictions of gang affiliation.
  - Causation of a substantial or material disruption to school activities or to the orderly and safe operation of the school or at school-sponsored activities.
  - Rude, disrespectful, or discourteous expressions are inconsistent with civil discourse and behavior.

**Sweatshirts/Sweaters/Fleece** must be solid color. Solid color sweaters with v-necks, crewnecks, cardigans or vests may be worn but must be worn over the approved shirts. Brand names\* may be no larger than a business card and shall not be offensive.

1. Sweaters, sweatshirts, fleece, and vests should hang at the waist/belt line.
2. Hoodies may be worn but must not display obscene or inappropriate printing (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, profanity, prejudice, weapons, or conveys an immoral message) either explicit or implied.
3. Hoods are not allowed to be worn while inside.

4. Sweatshirts, sweaters, fleeces, and hoodies are not to be tied over the shoulders or around the waist.

**Pants, walking shorts, or skirts** – can be any solid color and be worn and fitted at the waistline and adhere to the following:

1. Low-slung, baggy seat, baggy-legged, or bell-bottom pants are not permitted.
2. Walking shorts in approved colors may be worn. They must be no shorter than 6 inches above the knee.
3. Sports/athletic shorts are not allowed in the halls or classrooms. No embellishments on the pants (Examples: lace, metal studs, chains, etc.)
4. Pant legs cannot be rolled up exposing the leg.

The following **pants, walking shorts, or skirts** are not allowed:

1. Jeans/denim or jeans-type, or overalls;
2. Athletic pants or shorts in regular school settings (school settings other than P.E. setting);
3. Yoga pants/tights/leggings;
4. Pants, walking shorts, or skirts with holes, rips, or tears.

**Belts** – are not required to be worn.

**Skirts/dresses** - All skirts may be any solid color, be a cotton, cotton/polyester blend or corduroy.

1. Skirts must go to the knee.
2. There must be no slits in skirts above the knee.
3. All dresses that are worn must be solid khaki, navy blue, or black and go to the knee.

### **Jewelry/Tattoos/Body Piercings**

Jewelry that depicts racial, sexual, discriminatory, gang-related, or obscene language is not allowed. Jewelry shall not create a safety concern for the student or others. All tattoos must be covered. Body piercings are limited to the ears and nose. Single body piercings, including rings, may be worn through the nose. No piercings or rings should be of size, type or design that would pose a safety hazard due to entanglement.

### **Footwear**

1. Shoes are to be worn at all times.
2. Dress/casual shoes, sandals, boots, or athletic shoes are to be worn and must be properly fastened.
3. Flip-flops and house shoes may not be worn.

### **Coats/Jackets**

1. Coats and jackets must not have drug, alcohol, gang-related, gambling, or any defamatory messages or pictures.
2. Long coats, heavy coats, or coats with hoods are to be removed and put in the locker or designated area while the student is in the school building.
3. The following outerwear is acceptable on buses, inside or outside of the school buildings.
  - a. Sport coats/blazers --- solid color and may have only school-approved writing or logos
  - b. Coats/jackets/sweaters --- official coats/jackets/sweaters of Chester County school clubs, organizations, or sports teams
  - c. Two-toned lightweight jackets are permitted as long as the design of the jacket remains clear and abides by the logo rules established in the dress code.
4. Students' names (screened or embroidered) may be added to the outside of their coats and jackets. They may use their legal name: first, middle, and last, or either one by itself. Nicknames will not be allowed. The height of the names may be no more than one inch. The name should be on the left side under any other logo that is already on the jacket/coat.

**Headwear** - No headwear is to be worn in the school building. (Examples: caps, hats, toboggans, scarves, sweatbands, hair rollers, do-rags, etc.)

### General

1. In grades 9-12, a school-issued student identification card and lanyard will be worn around the neck and visible at all times while on school property during the school day. Extracurricular practices and school events may be excluded.
2. Grills, sunglasses, and gloves may not be worn inside the school facility.
3. Sweatpants and jogging/windsuits may not be worn in the classroom.
4. Clothing will be clean, in good repair, fit properly, not contain excessive wrinkles, and be appropriate to the activity at all times.
5. Clothing with holes must be patched on the outside.
6. Clothing may be plain without manufacturer's logos, brand names, pictures, insignias visible on the clothing. Brand names\* logos may be worn and may be no larger than a business card. The brand name\* logos shall not be offensive.
7. All clothing must be appropriately sized. No oversized pants or shirts will be allowed.
8. Rolling book bags are not allowed unless medically necessary and approved by the principal.
9. The principal may allow clothing that represents school-based organizations on designated days.
10. The principal may deviate from the standard dress code on special days (homecoming, reward days, etc). These days will be publicized in advance.
11. The principal is allowed to grant exemptions to the standard dress code for religious reasons, handicapping conditions, or extraordinary circumstances. These exemptions are at the discretion of the principal. The exemptions are to be documented and made known to all staff members. Students granted an exemption must dress in an appropriate manner approved by the principal.

## **Expectations & Consequences**

Students are expected to adhere to the standard dress policy at all times during the regular school day. If a student arrives at school and is not in compliance with the standard dress policy, he/she will not be allowed to attend classes.

***Violations of the Standard Dress Code - Rule 6 of the Code of Behavior and Discipline will be followed with some additional stipulations:***

1. **1st Violation** - The student will be required to change clothes and a written warning (Notice of Noncompliance) will be mailed and sent home with the student. Students who miss class due to the necessity of changing into clothes that meet the dress code will be required to make up any work missed.

2. **2nd Violation** - The student will be required to change clothes, a Notice of Noncompliance will be mailed and sent home with the student, and one day of ISS will be assigned to the student. A parent conference will be requested by the principal or principal's designee to discuss the requirements of the standard dress code. Students who miss work due to the necessity of changing into clothes that meet the dress code will be required to make up any work missed.

3. **3rd Violation** - The student will be required to change clothes, a Notice of Noncompliance will be mailed and sent home with the student, and two days of ISS will be assigned to the student. A parent conference will be requested by the principal or principal's designee to discuss the requirements of the standard dress code. Students who miss work due to the necessity of changing into clothes that meet the dress code will be required to make up any work missed.

4. **Additional Violations** - Rule 27 of the Code of Behavior and Discipline will apply. The principal will evaluate the situation and recommend a placement in Alternative School or expulsion.

***In matters of opinion pertaining to the standard dress policy for the students, the judgment of the principal will prevail.***

***All teachers, principals, and other employees of Chester County School District must carry out the above school board policy and all other policies of the Chester County Board of Education and the State Board of Education.***

