

DRESS & GROOMING

The Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools.

The board authorizes the superintendent to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices which:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or
- D. Prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

Student Dress Code

The following dress code has been developed in accordance with district policy and in consultation with staff members, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and students of this district.

A. General rules

- 1. Students are expected to be clean and well-groomed in their appearance.
- 2. Students are expected to avoid extremes in appearance that are so disruptive or distracting that the reaction of other students is disruptive to the educational process.
- 3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health or safety of the student or of other students or is injurious to school property will not be permitted.

B. Prohibited clothing and articles

The following garments and articles are prohibited in school and at school-sponsored events:

- 1. Extremely low-cut, tight fitting or transparent clothes, bare midriffs, and suggestive clothing;
- 2. Skirts, dresses, pants, and shorts that end higher than mid-thigh;
- 3. Outdoor jackets, coats or hats worn in the building/classroom;
- 4. Bare feet, unsafe footwear, cleated shoes, and footwear that is intended for the beach;
- 5. Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene;

6. Undershirts (underwear) worn without an outer shirt; boxer shorts (underwear) worn without outer clothing;
7. Pants worn far below the waist;
8. Clothing that is overly soiled, torn, worn, or defaced;
9. Nonprescriptive sunglasses, glazed, and tinted glasses, except as prescribed by the student's doctor; and/or
10. Tank tops.

C. Enforcement

1. Teaching staff members will report perceived violations of the dress code to the building principal, who will interpret and apply the code.
2. Students who publicly represent the school or a school organization at an activity away from this district are required to dress in full accordance with the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge of the activity. Students unwilling to comply with this requirement will disqualify themselves from participation.
3. Students will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip, school dance, after-school activity unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with this dress code.

Date: August 28, 2023

First Reading: August 23, 2023

Second Reading/Adoption: September 27, 2023

Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A.11-1 General mandatory powers and duties

Cross References: *5131 Student Conduct and Discipline
 *5142 Student Safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.