

STUDENT DRESS CODE

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:

These rules are not comprehensive and the administration will have the discretion to state what is and is not appropriate should an issue arise.

1. Shirts and tops with artistic print and/or logos should be school appropriate and should not contain reference to tobacco, alcohol, weapons, violence, foul language, sex, etc. or be offensive to a specific race, ethnic group, or gender/gender identity.
2. Shirts and tops will provide intended coverage. (No exposed midriff, cleavage, chest, or back.) Please note, tank tops should have no less than a two (2) inch wide strap.
3. Pants, trousers, jeans, skirts/dress, and shorts must provide intended coverage. (No undergarments showing.)
4. Hooded attire is fine - but please **keep the hoods down in the building.**
5. As a general rule, hats may not be worn in school.*
6. Sunglasses are fine outside, but not in the building (unless prescribed by a doctor for medical conditions).
7. Shorts and skirts/dresses must be below mid-thigh. (Test this by hanging your hands at your sides- see where your fingertips land... this is the target.)
8. Fashionable rips, tears, and/or holes in clothing must be lower than mid-thigh.
9. Footwear must be worn at all times.
10. All Kindergarten through 5th grade students must wear closed toe shoes on the playground.**

Clothing that is not allowed includes but is not limited to:

Hats*, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, halter tops, backless shirts, tube tops, plunging necklines, PJ pants (or other lingerie type garments), or pants worn too low as to reveal undergarments.

*Hats may be worn in school for fundraising and school spirit events only as directed. Hats when worn, should be school appropriate (see #1 above).

**This is specific to grades K-5 because of the safety issues on the playground.

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.

Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, 1st Amendment

RSA 189:15, Regulations

RSA 193:38, Discrimination in Public Schools

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

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