

Students

Dress and Grooming

The Board of Education encourages students to dress in clothing appropriate to the school situation. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The District is responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student and that dress code enforcement does not increase marginalization or suppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance or body type/size.

The administration is encouraged to establish any needed regulations consistent with this policy through cooperative planning with staff, students and parents.

(cf. [5132.1](#) - Uniforms: Dress & Grooming)

(cf. 5145.4 - Nondiscrimination)

(cf. [5145.5](#) - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. [5145.511](#) - Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program)

(cf. [5145.53](#) - Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules

Policy adopted:

Students

Dress and Grooming

Items that are specifically prohibited under this policy include but are not limited to the following:

1. Shoes, boots or sneakers which mark the floor or have wheels.
2. "See through" style and/or mesh style shirts or blouses, midriff tops, backless tops, halter-tops or tank tops.
3. Flip-flops or thong style sandals at the elementary level.
4. Underwear worn as outerwear, including sleepwear.

5. Jackets, coats or boots normally worn as outerwear.
6. Hats, caps, bandannas or headgear except those worn to established religious customs.
7. Short shorts and cutoffs.
8. Face coverings
9. Sunglasses
10. Any article of clothing (including jackets, shorts, hats and bandannas), jewelry or other items which is identifiable as a known symbol of gang membership or affiliation.

At the secondary level (6 – 12) clothing which is worn in physical education shall not be worn in other classes or parts of the school nor shall clothing worn in regular classes be worn in physical education. Physical education teachers will specify the kind of clothing appropriate for their activity.

Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief shall not be prohibited under this policy. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, head-wraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

Appeal Process

Students or parents may appeal student, faculty or administrative decisions, except suspension which are applied to them or their child by first discussing it with the person(s) who made the decision. Any further appeal must be made in writing to the principal and the appeal must demonstrate:

1. A rule being unfairly applied or
2. A violation or misinterpretation of a policy or rule.

The principal will hear the appeal informally in a timely manner which he/she deems appropriate to the situation.

The principal's decision will be final unless the decision is appealed. Any appeal beyond the principal will be conducted at the Superintendent's level. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Training for School Administrators, Teachers & Students

A dress code is most effective when school administrators and teachers are trained to understand and embrace the intent of the code, how to apply and enforce the code equitably, and how to talk about the dress code and the reasoning behind it. Therefore:

1. School administrators and teachers should be trained to understand the purpose/spirit of the code, the actual code, and how to enforce it with the least impact on student learning and self-confidence.
2. School administrators and teachers must enforce the District dress code consistently. School administration and staff do not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.
3. School staff must be trained and able to use student/body-positive language to explain the code and to address code violations.

Regulation approved: