

## **Students**

### **Dress & Grooming**

The community and general public often judge the quality of education by the behavior, appearance and activities of its student body. The results of one's dress, appearance and behavior generally go far beyond the individual student.

In general, attire and grooming of individual students in this school system are the responsibility of the students and their parents. There are, however, general principles of good taste and modesty which must and shall be observed.

Students' overall appearance should fall within the general accepted definitions of neatness and cleanliness. Generally, the students are expected to dress and groom themselves for the business of school so as to neither distract other students or teachers, disrupt the education process, or pose a health or safety threat to anyone. Clothing should be clean, untoned, free from promotion of, or reference to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and offensive signs, symbols or words. Clothing should also be free of slogans, names, titles or the like which are defamatory toward person(s), the school or other organizations or which are likely to incite or inflame.

Students whose dress or grooming is judged by the staff to be distracting, disruptive or dangerous to personal safety will be subject to administrative action. Possession of electronic devices that are in violation of State law or which may be disruptive to the educational setting are prohibited except as allowed in Board Policy 5131.81.

The intent of this policy is to encourage all concerned to dress, groom and conduct themselves in keeping with an atmosphere which reflects a sensitivity to and respect for self and others and the overall functions of the school.

Policy Adopted: March 1, 1995  
Policy Revised: December 2, 1998  
August 8, 2001  
August 17, 2005

**BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Bristol, Connecticut

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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.

### **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.

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**Appeal Process (con't)**

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.

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