

Students

Dress and Grooming

The Board of Education (Board) dress code policy aims to maintain a safe and stable learning environment while allowing students to respectfully express their individuality. It is applicable to the school environment, as well as all school sponsored activities.

The Board 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.

Restrictions on freedom of student dress may be applied whenever the mode of dress in question:

1. Is unsafe either for the student or those around the student.
2. Is disruptive to school operations and the education process in general.
3. Depicts or advocates violence, criminal activity, use of alcohol or drugs, pornography or hate speech.
4. Contains or can be construed to be racist, misogynistic, lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, or threatening.
5. If breasts, genitalia and buttocks are not covered by opaque materials.

No restrictions on freedom of dress, grooming and adornment will be imposed which:

1. Reflect discrimination as to civil rights.
2. Enforce particular codes of morality or religious tenets.
3. Attempt to dictate or adjudicate style or taste.
4. Do not fall within the direct or implied powers of the Board of Education.

Staff Responsibility: All school staff must be notified of the policy at the beginning of the school year with a refresher in early spring in regards to its purpose and spirit. Teachers and staff are not empowered to discuss the dress code with individual students and should not discuss dress code concerns among themselves. They should notify the school administration of any concerns. Only the school administration (Principal or their designee) are is permitted to address dress code concerns.

Enforcement: If there is a dress code concern, only the school administration (Principal or their designee) are is permitted to address the concern with the student. They must enforce it consistently and in a sensitive manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization of any group based on race, sex, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

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Consequences:

The only consequence for the student shall be that they correct the situation. If a student continues to violate the policy, this would be dealt with under the respective school's code of conduct.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statute § 10-233 et seq.

Policy adopted: June 6, 2002
Policy amended: October 6, 2005
Policy revised: May 2, 2019
Policy revised:

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut