

**Dress and Grooming**

The following are considered inappropriate for all students to wear during the school day:

1. Pants or shorts of sweat or spandex material cannot be worn by the 6th through 12th graders. All pants or shorts shall be worn, belted or tied at the waist. Tights, spandex or any other unduly revealing clothing may not be worn as outer garments. A long dress or long shirt is appropriate to wear over pants or shorts made of leggings or spandex material.
2. Tank tops, undershirts, halter tops, tube tops, bare midriffs, transparent clothing, plunging necklines (front or back), sleeveless shirts or any other unduly revealing attire.
3. Clothes, which are torn, ragged or have holes. Excessively (enormous openings) torn or ripped clothing above the knee front or back.
4. Skirts, shorts, dresses and jumpers must be of an appropriate length at the knee.
5. Outer coats, windbreakers, hats, scarves, earmuffs, bandanas, curlers, goggles, sunglasses are prohibited indoors.
6. Hooded shirts may be worn indoors provided the hoods are not used as head apparel.
7. Footwear which causes noisy distraction or which is unsafe, flip flops, or a health hazard and is not secured to the foot.
8. Jewelry or wallet/key chains that can be dangerous or distracting.
9. Cell phones, laser pens or other types of electronic devices which are not prescribed for instructional purposes.
10. No references to drugs, sex, alcohol or obscene remarks.
11. Exemption for all school sanctioned uniforms on designated days by the administration such as prom dresses and school dances.
12. Backpacks/book bags, if permitted by the school administration, may be carried between classes, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221 Board of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

**Policy adopted: January 19, 2017**

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Derby, Connecticut

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## Students

### Student Dress

The Board of Education has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire can further important educational interests including:

- (1) Reducing distraction and loss of self-esteem caused by teasing or competition over clothing;
- (2) Providing an environment where students can focus more on learning;
- (3) Enhancing school safety by making it harder to conceal weapons or contraband;
- (4) Creating a greater sense of community amongst the students;
- (5) Preparing students for the future roles in the professional workplace;
- (6) Creating an atmosphere reflecting seriousness of purpose about education;
- (7) Presenting a more positive image to the community; and
- (8) Minimizing disruption from wearing inappropriate clothing or possessing inappropriate items at school.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children's dress conforms to requirements set forth below. The health, safety and education of the child must be the concern of every parent/guardian. It is the recommendation of professional school personnel that parents/guardians hold their children to the highest standard in regards to school attire.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to the educational process, the Board of Education prohibits the following from wear during the academic school day:

a. Coats, jackets, or other attire normally worn as outerwear. Outerwear includes: coats, jackets, windbreakers, nylon pullovers, down vests, and other clothing the administration deems inappropriate. Such clothing or outerwear shall not be worn, carried, or kept in the classroom during regular school hours except on the elementary level where it shall be kept in cubbies, closets or storage areas.

b. Head coverings of any kind, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, masks, headbands, visors, kerchiefs, athletic sweatbands, hats, caps or hoods.

Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief shall not be prohibited under this policy. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck, or kept in the classroom during regular school hours.

c. Items a. and b. above must be secured in the student's locker or in a designated storage area, before school starts. Items not stored will be confiscated by the Principal and ~~kept until such time as he/she feels it is appropriate to return them.~~ Must be picked up by a parent.

d. Footwear which mars floors, causes damage to floors, excessive noise or is a safety hazard including but not limited to, flip-flops, slides (and any other footwear not secured to one's foot), spike heels, boots.

e. Sunglasses or eyewear that is not medically necessary, whether worn or carried, ~~or eyewear that is not medically necessary.~~

f. Oversized metal belt buckles and all metal belts or belts featuring metal other than the buckle such as chains hanging off the belt or loops.

g. Spiked or studded bracelets, brass knuckles, oversized or multi-finger rings, belts or any other article of attire with spikes or studs attached, or any other clothing item that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students, or staff.

h. Attire or accessories which contain overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures likely to unduly disrupt the educational environment, including sexual innuendo or which constitute "fighting words", gang colors, signage, etc., or which depict the logo or emblems of drugs, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages; or attire or accessories that encourage the use of such products.

i. Skirts, shorts, dresses and jumpers must be ~~at the knee.~~ Of an inappropriate length (inappropriate defined as a violation of numbers 1 through 8 above.)

j. See-through clothing, tops and dresses that include tank tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, sleeveless, expose the midriff, plunging necklines-or strapless designs.

~~k. Spandex garments are allowed only if they are covered by shorts or skirts.~~

~~k.l.~~ Pants that reveal any portion of the torso or the undergarments, or that are more than two sizes larger than the student's physical size would require.

~~l.m.~~ Backpacks. \*If permitted by the school administration, backpacks and/or book bags may be carried between classes, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.

## Religious and Health Accommodations

Where the bona fide religious beliefs or health needs of a student conflict with the school attire policy, the schools will provide reasonable accommodation. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify their school principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

## Compliance

School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with school attire requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the school attire policy, discipline is appropriate. The following discipline procedures shall apply:

<b>High School/Middle School:</b>	
<b>First Offense:</b>	Removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. <del>(If unable to correct, they will not be allowed to return to class.)</del> <u>Clothing must be corrected.</u>
<b>Second Offense:</b>	After-school detention. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected.
<b>Third Offense:</b>	<del>In-school suspension. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected.</del>
<b>Subsequent Offenses:</b>	<del>Out-of-school suspension*. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Upon return to school, e</del> Clothing must be corrected. (*This, beginning July 1, 2008, would violate the new law limiting out-of-school suspension)
<b>Middle School:</b>	
<b>First Offense:</b>	<del>Removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident.</del>
<b>Second Offense:</b>	<del>After school detention. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected.</del>
<b>Third Offense:</b>	<del>Extended detention. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected.</del>

<b>Subsequent Offenses:</b>	<del>In school suspension issued. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected</del>
<b>Elementary Schools:</b>	
<b>First Offense:</b>	Verbal warning, removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident.
<b>Second Offense:</b>	Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.
<b>Third Offense:</b>	Detention. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.
<b>Subsequent Offenses:</b>	Suspension* with parent/guardian conference. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected. <i>(*In-school suspension recommended by CAFE based on recent legislation)</i>

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**Regulation approved: April 20, 2017**

**Revised:**

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Derby, Connecticut