

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following: (1) violates the guidelines in this policy; (2) is substantially disruptive; (3) is provocative or obscene; or (4) endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

All students must observe the following guidelines:

1. For safety reasons, pants must be worn at or above the hip line and should not extend below the bottom of the shoes.
2. Shirts, blouses and dresses shall cover the abdomen, back and both shoulders. See-through clothing is prohibited. Shirts and tops must meet the waistband of pants, shorts or skirts at all times with no midriff, cleavage or underwear visible at any time.
3. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for classroom activities. With the exception of medically prescribed footwear, soles and heels are not to exceed a total height of three inches.
4. Any clothing, jewelry, accessories or book bags that depict, advertise or promote gangs or illegal drug, alcohol or tobacco use or that convey sexually explicit or vulgar language or images are prohibited. Each principal shall, in consultation with the local police department, compile a list of current gang symbols. The items on this list shall be considered to depict gang affiliation and shall be prohibited. This list shall be updated frequently and publicized to the students whenever changes are made.
5. Trench coats are prohibited.
6. Skirts, dresses and shorts must fall at least as low as four inches above the top of the knee.
7. Jewelry and accessories that could be used as weapons are prohibited.
8. No head covering of any sort shall be worn in the classroom unless required for religious reasons.

The principal may allow exceptions to this dress code only on special occasions, such as holidays, pep rallies and special performances. The principal may further prescribe additional dress requirements appropriate to certain classes, such as physical education, career and technical education (vocational) and science classes.

Before being punished, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315)

Adopted: February 16, 2009

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