

Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code

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

The principal has the authority to implement this policy in a manner that is age appropriate. The principal must make reasonable accommodations for those students who, because of sincerely held religious beliefs, cultural heritage or medical reasons, request, in writing, a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. The principal must also make reasonable accommodations for students involved in school-approved special duties, activities or projects, including, but not be limited to, athletics, vocational classes and projects, P.E. classes, special events and other activities that allow for non-conforming dress. The principal or designee must publicize and enforce the following dress standards in the school.

1. Shorts, skirts, skorts, and dresses must be long enough to reach three inches above the knees, and any slits in dresses and skirts may not reach higher than three inches above the knees.
2. Shoulders and the front and back torso must be covered at all times. Sleeveless shirts, tops and dresses that do not cover the top of the shoulder (spaghetti straps, halter tops, plunging necklines) will not be allowed. Halters are not allowed as inner or outer garments. Off the shoulder tops are not allowed.
3. All pants, shorts, etc. must be worn at the **waist**. No "saggy, baggy" pants will be allowed.
4. Sweatshirts, sweaters, and hoodies must not hang below the crotch area. The hood may not be worn while inside the building.
5. Appropriate undergarments are required and must not be visible whether sitting or standing.
6. Students must wear appropriate footwear at all times. Shoes designed to have laces must be laced, tied and worn in an appropriate manner.
7. Sunglasses, metal waist/wallet chains, hats, caps, bandanas, bandana scarves, or other head coverings may not be worn or seen during the school day. (STAFF MEMBERS WILL CONFISCATE UNAUTHORIZED ITEMS.)
8. Pajamas and bedroom shoes may not be worn.
9. Cleavage may not be visible.
10. Clothing may neither have holes nor be sheer, mesh or designed in such a manner

as to reveal the body or undergarments.

11. Students must not wear oversized clothing (including heavy jackets, pants, shirts, etc.) or tight fitting clothing (i.e., knits, spandex bicycle pants or overly tight pants, jeans, skirts, shirts, and dresses) in the building.

12. Students must not wear any clothing, apparel or accessory that promotes illegal drug, alcohol or tobacco use, is of a sexual nature, displays explicit or vulgar language, or depicts gang affiliation. Each principal must, in consultation with the local police department, compile a list of current gang symbols. The items on this list will be considered to depict gang affiliation and are prohibited. This list will be frequently updated and publicized to the students whenever changes are made. Administrators must notify parent-and-student that further violations of the gang affiliation of this policy may result in long-term suspension.

13. Clothing must be worn in the manner in which it was designed to be worn (for example, no inside-out or backwards articles of clothing, rolled up pant legs or unfastened bibs on overalls).

14. Heavy, large jewelry, belt buckles and/or accessories that are threatening, dangerous, distracting, disruptive or could be utilized as a weapon may not be worn.

THE ADMINISTRATION, TEACHERS, AND STAFF RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF ANY STUDENT DRESS.

A student who is not in compliance with this policy will change clothes using available clothes at school or call his or her parents to bring a change of clothes. If neither of those options is available, the student shall spend the remainder of the day in ISS. The principal or designee must send the student's parents written notification of the dress code violation. The consequences for subsequent violations of the dress code will be addressed in accordance with regulations developed by the superintendent.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-390](#), [-391](#)

Cross References: School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy [4302](#)), Disruptive Behavior (policy [4315](#))

Adopted: April 27, 2009

Revised: June 30, 2015