

Policy

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

The Somerville Board of Education recognizes that individual style and preference is expressed through an individual's manner of dress and the board shall not unreasonably impose restrictions limiting an individual's style and preferences. The board believes that good grooming and appropriate dress enhance the educational environment and help promote good conduct in the school. Therefore, the board authorizes the superintendent to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress and grooming practices which:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student to him/herself or to others in the school;
- B. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. Prevent the student from achieving his or her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Students are expected to come to school wearing appropriate and suitable attire that does not distract others and is not offensive, promote or advertise illegal activities or products or reflects discriminatory beliefs.

Students, while in school, on school property or at school sponsored functions and events are specifically prohibited from wearing any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law enforcement agency will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

Students who are dressed inappropriately for school shall be required cover-up or change out of clothing and/or remove accessories in violation with this policy. The student may change into clothing that they have with them in school or the school nurse or his or her designee may loan clothing to the student (if available). The parent/guardian may also be contacted to request other clothing.

The dress code shall serve as a minimum code. The building principal may institute school rules and regulations which he/she deems necessary and/or appropriate.

Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

Adopted: November 20, 2012
NJSBA Review/Update: March 2017
Readopt:

Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A.11-1 General mandatory powers and duties

Cross References: *5131 Student Conduct and Discipline
*5142 Student Safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)