

Policy

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

It is the intention of the Woodbridge Township Board of Education to insure that all students recognize the need to be appropriately dressed each time they enter the school building. All students are encouraged to dress in a way that is in good taste and is appropriate for school. Appropriate dress would be the type attire which would identify the serious and important nature of the educational process. Not only should appropriate student dress be clean and neat but it should not make a statement which would offend good judgment, be in poor taste, incite others, and may not be a disruptive influence, present a threat to safety and health, or violate the law.

Appropriate dress for students can only be achieved with the total cooperation of parents. In order to achieve good taste in student dress, the board of education appeals to parents to insure that they purchase appropriate school attire for their children and supervise what they wear to school.

A. Regulations:

Regulating student dress shall be the responsibility of the principal of each school. The teacher is to play a most important role in regulating student dress and is required to refer a student to the office whenever an individual's attire may interfere with the educational process.

1. Any clothing which is excessively tight or which displays excessive nudity, such as sheer or transparent blouses or shirts, brief or low cut blouses or shirts, or apparel that bares the midriff, shall not be permitted.
2. Any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that a student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities is prohibited on school property.
3. Tank tops, halters, and tube tops are not permitted.
4. Sweatshirts, warm-ups, and sleeveless shirts are permitted if they are not torn and if they are not cut or tied to expose the midriff and do not display excessive nudity.
5. Students may not wear short-shorts. Shorts and skirts shall be mid thigh or longer in length.
6. Students may not wear excessively long tee shirts.
7. Bedroom attire, such as pajama tops and/or bottoms, will not be permitted.
8. Footwear is required. Students must wear shoes or sneakers. Cleated shoes, shoes with wheels, bedroom slippers, flip-flops or excessively high heels are not permitted as they pose a safety hazard to the wearer.
9. Any article of clothing which displays indecent writing, pictures, or slogans shall not be permitted.
10. "Quasi-attire," such as armbands, wristbands, buttons, pins or other methods of symbolic expression are not permitted if determined by the teacher or principal to cause disruption, disorder, or a clear and present danger. Clothing which displays words or pictures that depict alcohol, drugs, or articles of clothing or jewelry associated with gangs, shall not be worn.
11. Any article of clothing or jewelry considered to be harmful, or which may cause damage to another student's person or property, such as spiked bracelets and/or necklaces, shall not be permitted.
12. Clothing which is excessively worn, ripped, damaged, or soiled shall not be permitted.
13. Hats are never to be worn inside the school building, except where such use is pursuant to the observance of religious beliefs. Headbands and/or bandanas may not be worn in school.
14. Sunglasses may not be worn in school by students unless a medical excuse has been filed with the office.
15. Outerwear, such as coats and jackets, shall not be worn during the school day.
16. Safety and protective clothing, as well as athletic or gym clothing, shall be worn as required.
17. Book bags (backpacks) may be used by students to and from school and must be stored in a locker during the school day.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

18. Electronic devices may only be used in accordance with school rules. Any other unauthorized use of electronic devices is prohibited and subject to consequences.
19. Students attending any school functions (field trips, dances, activities during school hours) will not be permitted to participate unless they are properly attired.
20. The administration reserves the right to determine if any article of clothing is inappropriate for school.

B. Enforcement:

Students not conforming to the dress code shall be disciplined by the principal in accordance with other board policies. If any employee has concerns about a student's attire they should notify the administration.

C. Distribution:

A copy of this dress code shall be distributed to all students by publication in the student handbook or by mailing to their homes.

Adopted:	June 5, 1973
Revised:	December 21, 1978; December 8, 1988; March 21, 1991; July 15, 2004; September 21, 2006; January 17, 2008, July 14, 2014
NJSBA review/Update:	December 2011
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Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*5131	Student conduct and discipline
	*5142	Student safety

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