

CHAPTER IX: DRESS CODE

5511 - STUDENT DRESS CODE

A. Right

The School Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The School Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, however, the standards of appearance for students shall ensure that the student be clean, neat, and properly dressed. They shall observe modes of dress and standards of personal grooming which are in conformity with the studious atmosphere and good personal hygiene necessary in schools. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the principal to see that the dress or appearance of no student shall be extreme to the point of creating a disturbance or is hazardous to oneself, others, or school property. The dress code shall be incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct.

B. Responsibility

Students have the responsibility to dress neatly, be clean, and well groomed, and avoid dressing in a manner that offends or distracts others.

C. Procedures

The following procedures are established to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes.

1. Clothing that exposes the torso is not allowed. Clothing that displays/exposes cleavage is not allowed. The following examples include but are not limited to what is considered unacceptable: tube tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps and halters, bare back or midriff clothing, skin-tight clothing, see-through clothing, bathing suits (except with permission for specified events). Leggings and skinny jeans are permitted when paired with a looser top extending to a minimum of the hip bone.
2. Skirts, skorts, and dresses may be no shorter than two (2) inches above the top of the knee. Shorts must be no shorter than four (4) inches above the knee or cover the entire buttocks.
3. Appropriate undergarments must be worn but shall not be exposed, i.e., boxer shorts, underwear, bras. Pajamas shall not be worn to school. Sports bras are considered undergarments.
4. Students must wear shoes at all times. Slippers or shoes with containers, cleats, wheels, or tap shoes are prohibited. Athletic shoes may be required for physical education classes. Shoes with laces and/or straps must be secured at all times.

For safety reasons, elementary students may not wear sandals or open toe shoes. Elementary and middle school students are not permitted to wear flip flops or shoes without a back. Middle school students may wear open toe shoes with a back strap.

5. Headgear (with the exception of safety helmets) are not to be brought to school unless for medical purposes. Students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun-protective wear while outdoors during school hours, such as when students are at recess.

6. No clothes or accessories with metal studs, ornaments, chains, or other objects which can scratch furniture, damage property, or cause harm to oneself or others, may be worn.
7. Clothing, jewelry, and accessories shall not convey messages that are crude; vulgar/profane; violent/death-oriented (Gothic); gang related; sexually suggestive; and/or promoting alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
8. Clothing which is not worn appropriately, is not properly fastened, or has tears or holes exposing skin above the knee will not be permitted.
9. Pants, jeans, slacks, and shorts must be worn to the top of the hipbone or higher. Pants must be secured at the hip, must not be baggy or oversized and the hem of the pant leg must not drag on the ground.
10. No hairstyle, jewelry, or tattoo that is a distraction to the learning environment is allowed.
11. All students enrolled in a vocational program must dress to reflect current business and industry standards for the particular program.

These samples are not all-inclusive but serve as a guide for individual schools. Individual schools may have a stricter dress code approved by the school advisory council (SAC), and then approved by the School Board prior to implementation, but all such restrictions must be justifiable with a rationale related to the health, safety, or welfare of the students as stated in F.S. 1011.78:

1. Encouraging students to express their individuality through personality and academic achievements, rather than outward appearance.
2. Enabling students to focus on academics, rather than fashion, because they are able to convey a neat, serious, and studious image.
3. Minimizing disciplinary problems because students are not distracted by clothing.
4. Reducing the time needed to correct dress code violations through a readily available inventory of compliant attire.
5. Minimizing visible differences between students and eliminating social pressures to wear brand-name clothing or colors to show gang affiliation, thereby easing financial pressures on parents and enhancing school safety.
6. Creating a sense of school pride and belonging.

All school dress code guides should be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent/Superintendent's designee before implementation.

D. Violation of Dress Code

1. Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of dress code.
2. Students may be provided alternate clothing at school to comply with the dress code.

3. Parents may be requested to bring alternative clothing to the school.

4. Pursuant to FS 1006.07(2)(d)2,

“Any student who violates the school dress code is subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- a. For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning and the school principal shall call the student’s parent or guardian.
- b. For a second offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days and the school principal shall meet with the student’s parent or guardian.
- c. For a third or subsequent offense, a student shall receive an in-school suspension pursuant to s.1003.01(5) for a period not to exceed three (3) days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, and the school principal shall call the student’s parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student’s in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.”

Effective 07/01/2012

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Pursuant to FS 1006.07(2)(d)2,

Please see full Florida Statute 1006.07 at

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1006/Sections/1006.07.html/

“Any student who violates the school dress code is subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- a. *For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning and the school principal shall call the student’s parent or guardian.*
- b. *For a second offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 5 days and the school principal shall meet with the student’s parent or guardian.*
- c. *For a third or subsequent offense, a student shall receive an in-school suspension pursuant to s.1003.01(5) for a period not to exceed 3 days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days, and the school principal shall call the student’s parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student’s in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.”*