

NCBOE Dress Code Guidelines

These dress code guidelines are created, in accordance with NCBOE Policy 5511, so that students may learn appropriate dressing and grooming habits, as well create a safe and orderly school system.

The courts have repeatedly upheld a student's right to express themselves in their dress as long as there is no observable disruption to the educational process.

The Dress Code Guidelines are:

1. Clothing should cover undergarments and the buttocks area
2. Tops should be respectable and non-revealing. They should cover undergarments and be free of cut out areas. No see through material is permitted that exposes undergarments. Neck lines should be no lower than a straight line between underarms
3. No clothing should be worn that depicts profanity, obscenity, alcohol, drug, or racially discriminatory words, art, or symbols that encourage or depict violence in keeping with US Supreme Court precedents related to the free speech of students.
4. No Gang affiliated clothing, piercing, tattoos, jewelry, and hair styles as recognized by law enforcement
5. No sunglasses or bandanas worn or displayed at school other than with order from a medical doctor or during principal approved "spirit week" or other similar type celebrations. Hats may be worn to school. However, students will remove hats while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, standing for the National Anthem, and during other solemn moments in which it is customary to remove head coverings. In addition, teachers who feel that hats are creating a visual disturbance that impairs their ability to monitor student engagement may ask students to remove hats during class time. Hoods and "hoodies" are not considered hats and shall not be worn indoors.¹
6. Sleepwear and underwear worn in place of, or on-top of regular clothing is not permitted unless during principal approved "spirit week" or other similar type celebrations
7. No jewelry with spikes or chains that could cause injury or damage such as pocket or dog chains are permitted
8. Uniforms or practice clothing for official extracurricular activities such a band, cheer, or other sports are excluded from this policy.

Students who violate the dress code policy should **not** be excluded from class unless there is a **material and substantial disruption** to the school environment. A material and substantial disruption to the school environment is one that interferes with the orderly operation of the school, the delivery of instruction, or poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others.

Staff should address the dress code violations privately and discreetly with the student. Students who deliberately and repeatedly violate the dress code should be disciplined according to WVBE Policy 4373.

Adopted: December 19, 2022

¹ Student may wear hoodies to school, they may not wear the hood on their head while indoors.