

Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code

The board believes the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affects their academic performance and interactions with other students. The board requests parents outfit their children in clothing that will be conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and their parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

- (1) violates a dress code adopted and publicized by the school,
- (2) is disruptive,
- (3) is provocative or obscene, or
- (4) endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

A student not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given an opportunity to make adjustments so that he/she will be in compliance. Failure to comply will result in the student being removed from school until their appearance or clothing meets school district policy or rules. The student's parent/guardian will be notified prior to any such removal.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT DRESS POLICY

The Washington County Board of Education believes a safe and disciplined learning environment is conducive to learning, promotes school pride, develops a student's self-esteem and is a requirement for a high performing school. Therefore, the Washington County Board of Education adopts a student uniform dress policy. All Washington County students will follow a standard dress code during the student instructional days and any other instructional time, i.e. Saturday Academy, which began in the 2007-2008 school year.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress and appearance that are compatible with an effective learning environment. Wearing clothing that is disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive, and obscene or that endangers the health or safety of the student and others is prohibited.

Examples of prohibited dress or appearance include, but are not limited to:

- Sagging pants
- Excessively short or tight garments; form fitting spandex material and leggings
- Jewelry affixed to the nose, tongue, cheek, lip or eyebrow
- Head covering of any kind *(Religious or medical conditions may be exempted)
- See-through clothing
- Shoulders and midriffs cannot be visible (sleeveless shirts are not allowed)
- Attire that exposes cleavage
- Any adornment such as chains or spikes that reasonably could be perceived as or used as a weapon
- Overalls and coveralls
- Sweat pants
- Visible undergarments (underwear, bras, etc.)

- Spikes, steel toes, cleats, flip flops or bedroom shoes
- Any symbols, styles or attire frequently associated with intimidation, violence or violent groups about which students have been notified
- Garments with visible graphics of any kind (Note: Designer brand labels are acceptable so long as the top or bottom meets the required dress code requirements.)

Enforcing the Dress Code Policy

Principals shall exercise appropriate discretion in implementing this policy (including making reasonable accommodations on the basis of students' religious beliefs or medical conditions).

The principal shall exempt a student from the dress code policy when the clothing would impose a substantial burden on a medical condition or the exercise of a sincerely held religious belief. A parent, guardian or person in loco parentis of a student shall submit to the principal a written statement explaining the medical condition or religious belief and how it is affected by the dress code policy. Examples of other circumstances in which the sincerity of the religious belief has been demonstrated may be submitted. If the principal has reason to believe the student does not qualify for the exemption and denies the exemption, the parent may appeal the matter to the Superintendent for further inquiry. (Due process procedures will be followed, see School Board Policy: 1740/4010)

Each school shall communicate the following information to parents and students: (1) Types of clothing that can be worn; (2) Compliance measures to be employed; and (3) Notice of uniform sales and lists of competitive prices from vendors of uniform articles. Communications will include one or more of the following: newsletters, parent forums, telephone notification systems, PTA meetings, Parent Advisory Council meetings, TV and radio announcements, Dress Code Fashion Show, newspaper announcements, flyers and posters displayed at school and in the community.

Disciplinary Action if Policy is Not Followed

Disciplinary action will be taken if a student violates this dress code. Parental contact may be necessary to correct the violation. A second violation will result in the student receiving an ABC (Absent Before Parent Conference). During the Parent Conference determination will be clarified as to the disciplinary action to be taken for future violations. Documentation should be made to verify consequences, i.e. Level 1 Dress Code Violation; Level II Disobedience or failure to follow the lawful direction of school officials. (see School Board Policies: 4300, 4302, 4315 and 4316). Washington County School System's due process procedure will be followed

Appropriate Dress Guidelines

Pants, Skirts, Shorts, Jumpers, Dresses, Capris

- Denim jeans are acceptable as long as they do not have holes or skin can be see through the denim
- Pants, Skirts, Shorts, Jumpers, Dresses, Capris made of cotton blend or khaki material
- Colors: Any solid color
- Garments must have no more than 6 pockets including coin pockets
- Skirts, shorts, jumpers, and dresses must meet the fingertip rule for length when standing

- Elastic waist pants are acceptable

Belts

- Students in grades 6 through 12 must wear a belt if the garment has belt loops (must use all loops)
- Students in grades Pre-K through 5 are not required to wear a belt

Shoes

- Some type of footwear must be worn at all times
- Shoes may be a variety of colors; boots or oxford lace up style; also fastened style shoes and Sperry.
- Sandals are acceptable, opened or with closed toe and back strap
- Laces and velcro must be tied or fastened on shoes at all times.

Shirts

- Colors: Any color
- Shirts may be long or short sleeve
- Shirts must be tucked in pants or skirts at all times

Coats/Outerwear

- For security reasons, heavy coats, including hooded coats, may be worn to school, but be removed upon entering the building
- Coats may be worn during class change if the student is exiting the building
- Solid colored hoodies may be worn in the building, as long as the hood is not worn over the head. Violation may result in not being allowed to wear a hoodie at school.
- Zip or button front light jackets or cardigans in any color may be worn in the building but cannot hang past the straddle of the pants and must be opened while inside the building.
- Hats, are prohibited in the building, head covering of any kind such as skull caps, headbands and hair rollers shall not be worn inside the building (exception medical/religious reasons)

Jewelry

- Some jewelry shall be appropriate for school attire (such as watches, necklaces)
- No large medallion type necklaces
- No jewelry affixed to the lip, tongue, nose, cheek or eyebrow during school hours
- Fronts or grills are prohibited during the school hours

Revisions to this policy will become effective for the 2019-2020 school year. This policy will be reviewed and evaluated annually for effective implementation.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390, -391

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

Adopted: September 12, 2006

Revised: May 13, 2008; October 22, 2013; November 5, 2013, July 26, 2016, December 12, 2017, July 2018