

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. The superintendent will establish dress standards for students to follow. Generally, dress and grooming standards that comply with the superintendent’s guidelines will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable, nondiscriminatory dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is substantially disruptive (for information on gang-related attire, see policy 4328, Gang-Related Activity);
3. is provocative or obscene; or
4. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy and superintendent guidelines will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct or highlight as part of 4316-R, Student Dress Code Procedures a regulation attached to this policy the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Gang-Related Activity (policy 4328), Student Dress Code Procedures (4316-R)

Adopted: May 11, 2015

Replaces: Policy 5.07.25, Watauga County Schools Dress Standards

Revised: August 13, 2018; December 13, 2021