

Students and parents/guardians have a right to determine their pattern of dress and grooming provided such patterns do not interfere with the orderly operation of the school or conflict with the educational mission of the school. Therefore, dress should be appropriate for the schools learning environment.

K-12 DRESS STANDARDS

Watauga County School students shall dress in a manner that is appropriate and conducive to a safe learning environment. The following standards shall be appropriate student dress:

1. Sun glasses shall not be worn in the building.
2. Hats, caps, and all other head coverings shall not be worn in K-8 schools except during specific activities as approved by the principal. Hats, caps, and all other head coverings may be worn at the high school level in areas designated by the principal and listed in the student handbook. Head coverings, including those required for specific instructional purposes, may be worn at appropriate times as directed or allowed by teachers.
3. Shoes shall be worn at all times in the school building and on the school campus.
4. Clothing and accessory items that have printed statements or pictures that are plainly offensive, threatening, vulgar, lewd, obscene, or in conflict with the educational mission of the school shall not be permitted.
5. Profanity on clothing shall not be permitted.
6. Clothing, accessory items and jewelry promoting activities which are illegal to minors such as tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or lewd sexual messages shall not be worn.
7. Clothing, accessory items, and jewelry that tend to substantially interfere with the educational process or which have in the past substantially interfered with the educational process shall not be permitted. Before starting disciplinary action against the student, the administrator will make a reasonable assessment as to the disruptive nature of the clothing, accessory item, or jewelry. Such assessment shall be in writing.
8. No undergarments shall be visible.
9. No bathing suits shall be worn.
10. No pajamas shall be worn.
11. Midriffs, waist, and hips shall be covered.
12. The waistband of all pants, shorts and skirts shall be worn above the hips at all times.

13. All tops, shirts, and blouses shall be closed on the sides, back, and front. Elementary principals may use discretion when dealing with younger students.

14. Private body parts shall be covered and not visible when moving, standing, bending or sitting.

15. No chains, studded or spiked necklaces/bracelets that could be considered weapons are to be worn.

16. Exceptions. Exceptions to this policy may be made by school administration on an individual basis for a *bona fide* religious, medical, or other appropriate reason.

The rules of this policy may be waived by the school administration for school approved activities.

Anything not addressed by this policy shall be left to the discretion of the school administration.

THE MINIMUM EXPECTATION FOR THE DRESS AND GROOMING OF EMPLOYEES, INTERNS, STUDENT TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS IS THAT THEY MEET OR EXCEED THE STANDARDS FOR WATAUGA COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENTS.

GRADES 9-12 PROCEDURES FOR DRESS STANDARDS VIOLATIONS

The following procedures shall be employed when a Watauga High School student violates the Watauga High School Dress Standards:

Female students shall be referred to a female administrator or female designee and male students shall be referred to a male administrator or male designee.

The teacher will address the issue with the student, or complete a disciplinary referral form and send the student to the office.

WHEN THE STUDENT IS REFERRED TO THE OFFICE:

FIRST OFFICE REFERRAL:

The student will receive a warning and be required to correct the violation.

SECOND and THIRD OFFICE REFERRAL:

The student will be required to correct the violation and be given an "unexcused absence" for any and all classes missed while a) the student returns home to change clothes or b) the student waits in the office or ISS room for a parent to bring appropriate clothing.

Note: The parent will be contacted before the student is allowed to leave campus to correct the violation.

FOURTH AND ALL SUBSEQUENT REFERRALS:

The student will be required to correct violation and will be disciplined per Watauga High School guidelines for “insubordination”.

GRADES K-8 PROCEDURES FOR DRESS STANDARDS VIOLATIONS

Female students shall be referred to a female administrator or female designee and male students shall be referred to a male administrator or male designee.

WHEN A STUDENT IS OBSERVED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE DRESS STANDARDS, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES SHALL BE FOLLOWED:

FIRST OFFENSE:

The teacher will request a correction of the inappropriate dress. The student may go to their locker for proper clothing, to the office for clothing, or call home for their parent to bring the item(s) of clothing needed.

SECOND OFFENSE:

Referral is made to the office where the principal requests a correction of the inappropriate dress. The student may go to their locker for the proper clothing, to the office for clothing, or call home for the parent to bring the item(s) of clothing needed. The parent will receive a call or letter to report this as the second incident.

THIRD OFFENSE:

ISS for one day. The administrator will notify the parent and require a conference with the parent and student.

ADDITIONAL OFFENSES:

The administrator refers to Watauga County Board of Education policy 4300-R *Rules of Conduct and Procedural Code for Student Suspensions* and policy 4316, Student Dress Code.

Replaces: 5.07.25, Student Dress Standards

Revised: May 13, 2002; July 15, 2004; May 14, 2007; May 11, 2015; December 11, 2017; May 21, 2018