

# DRAFT POLICY SUBJECT TO PUBLIC REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE BROCKTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Brockton High School Dress Code

Our dress code seeks to balance our students' self-expression and individualism with the need to maintain a safe and welcoming learning environment for all.

We reaffirm our commitment to equity and inclusivity by explicitly stating that students are permitted to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity. Furthermore, students shall have a right to express themselves by the dress and hair style of their own choosing provided students meet their responsibility to dress and groom in a manner that conforms to the reasonable and acceptable standards of health, safety and cleanliness, will not cause a disruption or disorder of the educational process, and is not discriminatory, harassing or objectively offensive and/or does not endanger the health, safety and welfare of the student or others.

As an educational institution, our primary responsibility is to prepare students for success in their future workplaces and society. **With that goal in mind, we will continually reinforce the importance of appropriate dress.**

In the interest of maintaining a learning environment that is safe, non-discriminatory and free of unnecessary disruptions or harassment, students are not permitted to wear any of the following:

- Any apparel or head covering which inhibits a staff member's or emergency responder's ability to quickly identify the wearer. This includes but is not limited to hats, hoods, or bandanas. Exceptions will be provided by the Associate Principal of Climate and Culture for documented religious or medical reasons or identified disabilities.
- Gang-related clothing, articles, symbols, or visible gang tattoos.
- Any item that encourages the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, and/or other illegal or violent activities.
- Any item which references sexually provocative or explicit content.
- Any item which causes disorder or disruption of the school or creates a hostile environment for others at school.
- Jewelry and/or accessories that could cause injury.
- Hooded coats, jackets or hoodies unless a modification is offered by the principal or their designee due to extenuating circumstances, such as medical or religious reasons or extreme weather conditions. These items must be kept in students' lockers when a modification is not provided.
- Clothing should provide appropriate body coverage. Bareback, midriff and lowcut shirts, short shorts, and pants with rips above the knee are not permitted. In addition, attire that reveals undergarments, and garments that are made of see-through materials (mesh, sheer fabrics) without a blouse/shirt underneath are not allowed. Clothing must cover undergarments when sitting, standing or bending.

Students are expected to follow staff directions with respect to wearing any appropriate attire, protective clothing, safety glasses or other protective or safety equipment that may be required for participation in specialized programs, including but not limited to in vocational programs and physical education classes. Appropriate and safe footwear is required at all times.

School administrators are authorized to act in instances where students' attire does not meet the stated requirements. Enforcement of the dress code should be done in the least restrictive manner so as to

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reduce disruption to the student's school day, minimize the loss of instructional time, and preserve the respect and dignity of both the student and school community.

In most cases, if a student's attire does not comply with this policy, a private conversation will be held with the student and the involved staff member or associate principal. The primary goal of the conversation is to educate, not to punish. Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Failure to comply with this policy could result in disciplinary action after due process consistent with the student code of conduct.

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