ACS Dress Code and Appearance

The Alleghany County Board of Education respects a student's right to choose his or her dress or appearance. However, the Board of Education will require that students adhere to standards of dress that are compatible with the requirement of a good school environment. All students are expected to be groomed and dressed appropriately for school and school activities. If, in the opinion of the principal or his/her designee, a student's dress or appearance is such that it (1) disrupts the learning environment, (2) constitutes a threat to health or safety, (3) is construed as provocative or obscene, or (4) is lacking in cleanliness, the principal or the principal's designee may require the student and student's parent or guardian to take appropriate action to remedy the situation.

The principal shall have the authority to implement the school dress code and appearance policy in a manner that is age appropriate. Reasonable consideration will be made for those students who, because of sincerely held religious beliefs, cultural heritage, or medical reasons, request, in writing, a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. Reasonable accommodations shall be made by the principal to accommodate students involved in special duties, activities, or projects approved by the school. This would include, but is not limited to athletics, vocational classes and projects, P.E. classes, special events, science activities/labs, or other activities that would allow for non- conforming dress.

A. Guidelines: All students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be no shorter than the length of the individual's fingertips, including those worn over leggings, and applies to slits in dresses and skirts and jeans with holes. Holes showing skin should be no higher than the bottom of the length of the individual's fingertips.
2. All shirts or dresses must have shoulder straps measuring no less than 3 fingers wide unless continually worn under a top that has sleeves. Arm holes should also not extend more than 3 fingers below the armpit on each side.
3. All students must wear shirts and tops at all times. All tops should be long enough to cover the midriff when sitting or standing, and shirts, tops and dresses must cover the back and chest area (measured both back and front in a straight line from armpit to armpit.)
4. Undergarments (i.e. bras and/or male and female underpants) should not to be visible whether sitting or standing.
5. Outer clothing should not to be sheer, mesh, have holes higher than mid-thigh or designed in such a manner as to reveal the body or undergarments as described above.
6. Oversized clothing such as pants that sag below the hip bone or shirts that hang off the shoulder exposing undergarments are not allowed.
7. Attire is not allowed which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, the use of controlled substances, depicts violence, is of a sexual nature, is gang related, is cult related, is of a disruptive nature, or is demeaning or degrading to a particular group or individual. This includes, but is not limited to jewelry, bandannas, tee-shirts, etc.
8. Appropriate footwear should be worn at all times (i.e. boots in Ag class, gym shoes in P.E.). All students must wear shoes at all times within the school building.
9. Belts, when worn, must be buckled properly and worn at the waistline.
10. Hats, caps, toboggans, bandannas, hoods and sweatbands will not be worn in the classroom, unless they have been approved by the administration. Sunglasses will not be worn inside the school building.
11. No accessories that could be perceived as dangerous to others will be allowed (i.e. spiked collars, spiked bracelets, chains, etc.).

B. Dress Code Violations: Consequences

1. Elementary Schools

Elementary schools will follow as closely as possible the violation standards outlined below, but each individual K-5 school will have the option of supplementing age appropriate consequences for dress code violations as deemed necessary.

2. Grades 6-8 and High School

The student will be reminded of the approved dress code and informed of the specific guideline being addressed. If the violation is determined to be a threat to health or safety, further consequences will be determined based on established discipline policies.

1st Offense. Warning and student changes clothes using available clothes at school or calls parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes. If neither of these options is available, student spends day in isolation. Parent must be notified that dress code policy has been violated.

2nd Offense. Warning and student changes clothes using available clothes at school or calls parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes. If neither of these options is available, student spends day in isolation. Parent must be notified that dress code policy has been violated.

3rd Offense. Warning and student changes clothes using available clothes at school or calls parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes. If neither of these options is available, student spends day in isolation. Parent must be notified that dress code policy has been violated and next offense will result in ISS placement.

4th Offense. 1 Day ISS and student changes clothes using available clothes at school or calls parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes. If neither of these options is available, student spends day in isolation. Parent must be notified of ISS placement.

Repeated dress code violations will result in office referrals and established disciplinary guidelines will be followed for Noncompliance with Directives from Principals, Teachers and Other School Personnel as outlined in the Alleghany County Schools Student Handbook.