

REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS
R5511/Page 1 of 6
Dress Code

R5511 DRESS CODE

The following dress code has been developed in accordance with Policy No. 5511.

A. General Rules

1. Students are expected to be clean and well-groomed in their appearance.
2. Students are expected to avoid extremes in appearance that are so disruptive or distracting that the reaction of other students is beyond normal control.
3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health or safety of the student or of other students or is injurious to school property will not be tolerated.

B. Prohibited Clothing and Articles

The following garments and articles are prohibited in school and at school-sponsored indoor events:

1. Extremely low-cut, tight fitting or transparent clothes, bare midriffs, and suggestive clothing;
2. Skirts, dresses, and pants that end higher than mid-thigh;
3. Pin curlers and other hair curling aids;
4. Outdoor jackets, coats, or hats except when entering or leaving the building and when there is a defect in the heating system;
5. Bare feet, unsafe footwear, cleated shoes, and footwear intended for the beach;



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS
R5511/Page 2 of 6
Dress Code

6. Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene;
7. Undershirts (underwear) worn without an outer shirt;
8. In the classroom, clothing required for physical education classes;
9. Clothing that is overly soiled, torn, worn, or defaced;
10. Nonprescription sunglasses, glazed, and tinted glasses, except as prescribed by the student's doctor;
11. Portable audio or video devices;
12. Beepers and other summoning devices, except as permitted in Policy No. 2360;
13. Clothing, apparel and/or accessories which indicate affiliation with any gang associated with criminal activity or have references to alcohol or tobacco;
14. Clothing containing profanity or sexual references or innuendoes;
15. Clothing which includes racial or ethnic violence; and
16. Hats, hoods, visors, headbands and other headgear.

C. School Uniforms

The Board of Education permits the schools to implement a school uniform policy.

1. The school uniform to be worn by students will be selected by the Principal, staff and parents of each school requesting the school uniform policy. School uniforms are not required for all after school



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS
R5511/Page 3 of 6
Dress Code

activities as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Building Principal.

2. The Board believes the cost for students to wear a school uniform to school every school day will be less expensive for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) than the cost for students not wearing uniforms. In the event a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is economically disadvantaged and unable to afford the cost of a uniform for their student, the school may provide two uniforms to such students, excluding shoes, for each year the student is economically disadvantaged.
3. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be required to provide the Building Principal with the following information to determine if a student is economically disadvantaged:
 - a. A written statement from the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requesting to have their student receive assistance in complying with the school uniform policy,
 - b. A copy of the most recent three years' federal and State income tax returns, and
 - c. A copy of the family's Free and Reduced Lunch Application for the last three years.

The Building Principal shall determine if the student is economically disadvantaged based on the information provided by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

This school uniform policy does not prohibit students who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations, which are approved by the Board, from wearing organization uniforms to school on days that the organization has a scheduled meeting.



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS
R5511/Page 4 of 6
Dress Code

D. Physical Education

1. Students shall wear the following types of clothing for physical education classes:
 - a. Athletic type boxer shorts without pockets or fringes and marked on the outside of the lower.
 - b. Plain tee shirt.
 - c. A sweatshirt for outdoor activities in cool weather.
2. Snug belts, cut-offs, jeans, loose jewelry, and dirty or torn clothing and accessories are prohibited.
3. Students must wear sneakers or rubber-soled athletic shoes; slip-on shoes, hard-soled shoes, and bare feet are prohibited in gym class.
4. Students may be required to shower after a gym class that involves strenuous physical activity.

E. Mandatory Face-coverings

The use of face coverings shall be optional, unless mandated by the Superintendent or by public health authorities based on elevated COVID transmission rates or outbreaks. Whenever a mandatory masking policy is implemented, every person on school property must wear a face-covering over their nose and mouth at all times. The proper use of face-coverings is an essential element of the Student Dress Code.

1. Students may remove their face-coverings only while:
 - a. Outdoors, with a distance of six feet from every other person, or



REGULATION

PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS
R5511/Page 5 of 6
Dress Code

- b. Indoors, in designated well-ventilated areas with a distance of six feet from every other person, or
 - c. Eating or drinking or taking medication, or
 - d. Engaging in intense physical activity.
2. Certain students with disabilities or severe respiratory impairments who cannot tolerate use of face-coverings should use a full-face shield as an alternative, even though face shields provide less protection than face-coverings.
- F. Enforcement
1. Teaching staff members will report perceived violations of the dress code to the Building Principal, who will interpret and apply the code.
 2. Students who publicly represent the school or a school organization at an activity away from the school district are required to dress in full accordance with the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge of the activity. Students unwilling to comply with this requirement will disqualify themselves from participation.
 3. Students will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip or after-school activity, unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with this dress code.
 4. The Principal may waive strict application of the dress code on a day especially scheduled for students' free expression in dress and grooming.



REGULATION

**PATERSON
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

STUDENTS
R5511/Page 6 of 6
Dress Code

5. A student whose dress or grooming has been found by the Principal to violate this regulation may appeal the Principal's determination to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final.
6. Consequences for students who violate this policy may include detention, in-school suspension, deprivation of privileges, and/or mandatory parent/guardian conference with the Principal.

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