

POLICY

Oakland Board of Education

Section: Students
5511. DRESS AND GROOMING
Date Created: January 2023
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The schools of the Oakland School District are workplaces for the students of this district. Just as adults dress appropriately for their work environments, students need to dress appropriately for school. School dress should reflect a seriousness of purpose, an appreciation of the importance of health and safety, respect for oneself and others, and an understanding that the Board maintains high expectations for student achievement.

The Board of Education, therefore, establishes the following guidelines for student dress in school and urges all parents to assist in providing the students with an academic environment that is safe, conducive to learning, and supportive of high achievement.

District Guidelines for Student Dress

1. All attire should be neat, clean, reflect modesty, and be appropriate for a school environment;
2. Apparel shall not be sheer, brief, low cut, or revealing so as to be embarrassing, distracting, or indecent;
3. Shorts or short-like apparel may be worn during hot weather, but they must be neatly hemmed and long enough to ensure modesty;
4. Exposure of undergarments is unacceptable. Cutoffs or frayed bottoms are not permitted, and shorts with distracting or suggestive words/images on them are not acceptable for school. Neither are lycra/spandex shorts permitted in school;
5. Shirts with excessively low cut arm holes are not to be worn. Short shirts which leave the stomach area/midriff exposed are unsafe and not acceptable in school. Also, halter tops and spaghetti strap tops are not permitted;
6. Footwear is required; however, beach thongs or flip flops are unsafe in a school environment and are not permitted;
7. Hats, caps, or other headwear shall not be worn inside the school building;
8. Unless required for a medical reason, sunglasses may not be worn during school;
9. Graphics that are suggestively obscene or promote/depict an illegal substance on any garment are prohibited (e.g., alcohol, drugs, lewdness, profanity).
10. Gang related clothing is prohibited.

The building administrator is responsible for enforcing the dress code. Each Principal shall enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices that:

1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student themselves or to others in the school;
2. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
4. Prevent the student from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The Principal or designee shall have discretion in determining dress code violations. Exceptions to the dress code requirements may take effect for religious and/or medical reasons.

Appropriate consequences will be issued for violation. Repeat offenders will result in parental notification and possible exclusion from school. A parent may be contacted to bring appropriate attire to school before a student is permitted to return to class.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 17 January 2023