

- b. To be informed as to the specific grounds of the violation(s) of the local board of education's code of student conduct.

## **DRESS CODE POLICY**

### **I. Overview**

All Students are expected to be clean and appropriately dressed for school. Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause disruption and should encourage a serious approach to school. The Board prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment may reasonably be expected to cause a substantial disruption of, or interference with, normal school operations. The local school principal will be the final authority for determining appropriate dress within the framework of the policies below.

All schools will utilize a dress code. The dress code will consist of guidelines that students must follow to ensure appropriate attire. Appropriate dress and grooming in the school atmosphere can be determined by neatness, cleanliness, safety, appropriate selection of attire, and freedom from distraction of other students and/or the learning process. Any article of clothing or grooming that the principal can reasonably expect to cause a material or substantial disruption of, or interference with, normal school operations can be prohibited.

### **II. All Schools Dress Code**

All schools in the Baldwin County Public Schools System shall implement, within the parameters set forth below, the mandatory dress code policy. Pupils are expected to be clean and appropriately dressed for school. Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause a disruption to the school educational environment. The local school principal will be the final authority for determining appropriate dress within the framework of this dress code.

#### **A. Information Dissemination for Schools**

1. It is the responsibility of district and school support staffs to adequately communicate to parents, information common to all secondary schools including general guidelines for enforcement of the dress code policy.
2. Each school shall communicate the dress code information to parents:
3. The means by which this information is communicated shall include one or more of the following:
  - a. County/School website
  - b. Social media: Facebook, Twitter, etc.
  - c. School newsletters;
  - d. Parent meetings;
  - e. Rapid notification system
  - f. PTA meetings and newsletters;
  - g. Parent advisory meetings;
  - h. Television, radio and/or newspaper announcements;
  - i. Posters displayed at school and in the community;
  - j. Registration materials.

#### **B. Specific School Dress Code Guidelines**

All attire:

- a. No pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that:
- b. Are lewd, offensive, vulgar or obscene,
- c. Advertises or depicts tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs or any other illegal substance, or
- d. Contains fighting words or incites criminal activity; or
- e. Can reasonably be expected to cause a material or substantial disruption of, or interference with, normal school operations.

Tops:

- a. Tops that reveal the body in an inappropriate manner are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to mid-driffs, crop tops, bare at the sides, sundresses, "spaghetti strap" type tops, racer backs, off-the-shoulder tops, low-cut front or low-cut tops
- b. No cut off/crop tops. (No midriff can be showing)
- c. No sleeveless garments.
- d. No see-through garments.
- e. Designed so that the neckline does not reveal cleavage.
- f. Designed to cover all undergarments.
- g. Fit properly- no oversized or overly tight tops.
- h. No tank top/undershirt can be worn as a shirt.

Shorts:

- a. Length should be at fingertip/hand or mid-thigh, whichever is longer.
- b. Fit properly- no oversized or tight shorts.
- c. No spandex, biker, or see-through shorts.
- d. Must be hemmed and not rolled up

Dresses:

- a. Length should be at fingertip or mid-thigh, whichever is longer.
- b. Splits may not exceed (3) inches above the top of the knee.

Pants:

- a. Proper fit- no sagging or baggy fit: worn at the waist. (No pajama bottoms)
- b. No see through or spandex legging pants.
- c. Pants that are too tight or allow for exposure of undergarments are not permitted.
- d. Leggings, yoga pants, and other tight fitting, spandex or lycra based pants must be worn with an acceptable top that covers the private areas of the body.
- e. Leggings/tights may be worn only under shirts and dresses of appropriate length so that the buttocks and private area are covered.
- f. No holes in jeans in inappropriate areas (length rule); Pants or Jeans may only have holes at the knee or below. Pants or Jeans that have holes above the knee are not allowed, unless there is material beneath the holes
- g. Sweat pants and warm-up suits will be allowed.

Shoes:

- a. Must be worn at all times, fastened properly.
- b. \*Classes may require certain shoes and/or prohibit certain shoes for safety reasons. Ex. P.E., Chemistry.
- c. No bedroom slippers.

**d. For elementary school students, no open toed or open heeled shoes may be allowed for safety reasons (i.e. no Crocs).**

Accessories:

- a. Students may not wear hats or head coverings in school buildings or on school premises. This includes but is not limited to bandanas, athletic headbands, headscarves/hair wraps, hoodies, and other forms of headgear or hair covering.
- b. Exceptions include:
  - o Head gear used as part of a uniform such as the JROTC cap, band uniform hats, and athletic headgear worn with a uniform on the playing and practice fields are allowed.
  - o Religious purposes, which have been approved prior to wearing.
  - o During extreme cold weather, students will be allowed to wear toboggans outdoors on campus.
- c. Other than safety-related accessories for safety related purposes, accessories such as masks, hats, caps, sweatbands, or other head covering will not be worn in building;
- d. No gang related clothing/items will be allowed.
- e. Students must cover and/or conceal any court and/or law imposed tracking and/or monitoring devices.

C. Exemptions for Schools

All students enrolled in the Baldwin County Public Schools shall be required to dress in accordance with the adopted dress code policy. A student may be exempted from complying with the policy in the following instances:

- a. When noncompliance derives from financial hardship;
- b. When noncompliance derives from the student's particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code; or
- c. When noncompliance derives from a student's sincerely held religious belief. –

If the parents or guardians desire not to have their child comply with any portion of the Baldwin County Board of Education dress code policy for the reasons stated above, or due to special extenuating circumstances related to an item listed above, the students' parents or guardians must secure an exemption from their child's school principal. Parents or guardians should supply a written explanation to the school principal as to why an exemption should be granted. If the outcome of the principal's determination is not to the parent or guardian's liking, the parent or guardian may submit a written exemption request to the Superintendent, or his or her designee. Additional grounds for an exemption may be allowed at the principal's discretion.

**PROHIBITION OF POSSESSION FIREARMS (SEE BOE POLICY 4.2.1): SPECIFIC DISCIPLINE RELATED TO FIREARMS**

In compliance with Code of Alabama § 16-1-24.3 and Board Policy, **any** student who has been determined to have brought to school or to have in their possession a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on school buses, or at other school sponsored functions will be expelled for a period of one year. For the purpose of this section, the term "firearm" has the same meaning as defined in Title 18 U.S.C. § 921. The expulsion requirement for possession of a firearm may be modified in writing by the Superintendent upon the recommendation of the Superintendent's Expulsion Review Committee on a case-by-case basis. Students who are expelled for firearm