

## **FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

### **A. RIGHT**

Students have the right to express their opinions verbally or in writing and under reasonable restraints, to distribute written material on school grounds or in buildings as long as this expression in no way interferes with the orderly process of the school. Prior approval of the principal is required for the distribution of written materials.

### **B. RESPONSIBILITY**

Students should take care to express their opinions and ideas in a respectful manner so as not to offend or slander others. Freedom of expression does not extend to profane, vulgar, pornographic or racist material or communications advocating violence or criminal acts.

## **DRESS AND APPEARANCE FOR ALL STUDENTS**

### **A. RIGHT**

Students have a right to dress in comfortable fashions.

### **B. RESPONSIBILITY**

Students should take care to express their opinions and ideas in a respectful manner so as not to offend or slander others. Freedom of expression does not extend to profane, vulgar, pornographic or racist material or communications advocating violence or criminal acts.

### **C. RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD DRESS CODE**

The school has the power to regulate student dress for school-sponsored extra-curricular activities, as well as that on the school campus.

Members of the dance line, boosters, and cheerleaders will be allowed to wear their uniforms on a game day at the discretion of the Principal.

Obscene, profane language or provocative pictures on clothing, backpacks, jewelry and accessories are prohibited.

Satanic, cult, or gang-related symbolism in any form is prohibited on school campuses.

Drug-related symbols in any form including advertisements or promotions of alcohol or tobacco are prohibited on school campuses.

Tattoos that are vulgar, obscene, gang-related or otherwise disruptive to the school environment are not permitted.

Student's hair must be groomed in such a manner that it will not draw undue attention. All natural, protective, cultural hairstyles shall be allowed but not limited to: afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or cultural significance.

The activity of hair braiding shall not be allowed during the school day.

No picks or combs are to be worn in the hair during school hours.

Extreme Mohawk hairstyles and hair carving/art are unacceptable. Feathers are not allowed to be worn in hair except for cultural purpose with approval from the principal.

Sunglasses are not to be worn in the school building. Shoes are to be worn at all times.

Except finger rings, no rings, studs, or pins are to be worn on the body. Earrings, however, for girls are permitted and studs for boys.

The waistline of pants, jeans and shorts are not to be worn below the top of the hipline.

Faces must be kept neat, both in the case of boys with facial hair or girls with excessive make-up. Facial hair must be kept neat and well groomed.

Students are prohibited from the following:

- Wearing tennis shoes with skates to school.
- Bringing electronic scooters to school.

**Out of dress day attire will be at the discretion of the principal.**

## **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**

Students in Pre-K thru 12th Grade

#### **BOYS:**

Navy or khaki pants or shorts (no cargo pants/no cargo shorts or sweatpants).

Solid white and solid black, knit shirts with collar or cotton/cotton blend button front shirts with long or short sleeves - school logo(s) are optional.

#### **GIRLS:**

Navy or khaki pants, Capri pants, shorts, skirts, skorts or jumpers (no cargo pants/no cargo shorts or sweatpants). Leggings may be worn only under approved bottoms.

Solid white and solid black, knit shirts with collar or cotton/cotton blend button front shirts with long or short sleeves - school logo(s) are optional.

In each school, a committee shall choose no more than two (2) colored knit shirts with collars and spirit shirts. These shirts may have a school logo.

Shirts must be long enough to tuck in and remain tucked in at all times.

Only solid white, black, or grey undershirts or camisoles shall be worn under the school uniform shirt.

Jeans may be worn in any color only on approved jean days. Jeans are not part of the uniform.

Belts may be worn and must be buckled at all times. If worn, no part of the belt may be left hanging at any time and must be threaded through the loops.

Students may wear any jacket when weather dictates except for trench coats, dusters, knee length.

#### **Sweatshirts/Pullovers**

- Shall be solid white, solid black or a designated school color. These sweatshirts/pullovers may have school logo.
- Hoods are prohibited in the building.
- Sweatshirts/pullovers of any kind may not be worn in any way that creates a distraction.

Hats and hoods are prohibited in the building.

Uniform length: skirts, skorts, jumpers and shorts (boys and girls) must be no shorter than four inches above the knee as measured from the back crease of the knee. The knee-length requirement has been waived for all students in grades Pre-K – 3.

Shoes must be worn at all times. No rubber or foam swim footwear, flip-flops, beach or pool sandals, house shoes (slippers) or crocs will be allowed.

**There will be no mutilation including tearing, ripping or cutting of hems, cuffs, sleeves or body of the coordinates. NO OVER SIZING! The uniform must be in the correct size to avoid any sagging.**

The principal will have the authority to designate out of uniform days with or without pay.

Revised: February, 2001

Revised: January, 2002

Revised: July: 2006

Revised: June, 2007

Ref: Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S. 2d 601 (1969); Darr v. Schmidt, 460 F.2d 609 (1972); La Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:416.7; Board minutes, 6-29-98, 11-23-98, 8-30-99, 12-3-99, 2-28-00, 3-27-00, 6-12-01, 8-7-01, 7-6-06, 6-5-07.

## **PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO VIOLATIONS OF DRESS AND APPEARANCE REGULATIONS**

- 1) Upon being advised of a student not being in compliance with the dress or appearance policy, the school principal or designee should confer with the student in an office setting and advise the student of the nature of the dress or appearance infraction and obtain the student's response. A written record should be made of the conference and the student should be encouraged to remedy the violation voluntarily to eliminate the necessity of any disciplinary action. An attempt should be made to contact by telephone, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students under age 18 in an attempt made to remedy the violation without the necessity of formal discipline.
- 2) From the time of the initial conference with the school administrator, the student should be removed from class or the student population until either the end of the school day or the correction of the dress or appearance violation on that day.
- 3) Should the student return to school the next school day in violation of the dress or appearance regulations, the school principal or designee should confer with the student to determine whether the violation is willful, persistent or deliberate. A written record of the conference and the determination of whether the violation is willful, deliberate or persistent should be made. A second attempt to contact the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and advise the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the situation should be made and the administration should make a brief note of the response of the parent(s) or guardian(s). The student should again be removed from the classroom setting but remain in school until the end of the school day or a remediation of the violation, whichever occurs first.
- 4) If the principal or designee, upon conferring with the student or parent, determines that the violation is deliberate or persistent and is unlikely to be resolved without the imposition of formal discipline, the school administrator shall initiate and follow the formal due process provisions for suspension and/or, in an extreme case, expulsion of the student presently found in *Section IV* of the *Rapides Parish School Board Policies Handbook and Student Code of Conduct*. A student enrolled in grades pre-kindergarten through 5 shall not be given an out-of-school suspension or expulsion or suspended from riding the bus for a uniform or appearance violation unless a determination is first made by the principal that the uniform violation is tied to a willful disregard to school policies by the student. (This last sentence should be included only if SB54 of 2015 passes and becomes law.)

### **STUDENT TRANSFERS FROM OUT OF THE PARISH**

Students who move into Rapides parish from another parish or state will have five school days to be in compliance with the dress code.

## **DISCRIMINATION**

There shall be no discrimination in regard to race, sex, religion, handicap, or natural origin in the Rapides Parish School System.