



DRESS CODE

The dress code policy aims to maintain a safe and stable learning environment while allowing students to respectfully express their individuality. To ensure an environment conducive to the educational process, the Board of Education (the “Board”) has prohibited students from wearing the following during the school day:

- a. Crop tops, shirts, blouses and tank tops that reveal the chest, stomach, abdomen, back, or shoulders.
- b. Shirts and dresses that do not have fabric in the front, in the back, and on the sides (under the arms).
- c. Clothing that is transparent, see-through, made of mesh, or excessively torn.
- d. Clothing that reveals the upper thigh or undergarments. Shorts and skirts must allow the student to safely walk, sit, bend, and ascend or descend stairs without exposing the upper thigh or undergarments.
- e. Clothing or accessories containing vulgar or obscene language, or other offensive content that is likely to disrupt the educational environment.
- f. Clothing or accessories depicting or encouraging violence or that is likely to provoke others to react violently, such that it is likely to disrupt the educational environment.
- g. Clothing or accessories depicting, encouraging the use of, or containing references to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
- h. Tights, unless they are covered by another garment. Yoga pants shall be permitted.
- i. Pajamas and other sleepwear.
- j. Pants that are sagging below the waist.
- k. Accessories that pose a safety risk to students or staff.

- l. Footwear that mars the floors or poses a safety hazard, including flip-flops, sports sandals, and slippers. Closed toe Crocs are allowed. Sneakers must be worn for physical education classes.
- m. Hats, hoods, bandanas, and any head covering that conceals the identity of an individual student. However, approved head coverings worn for religious or medical purposes shall be permitted. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit protective hairstyles, which includes but is not limited to wigs, headwraps, and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros, and afro puffs.

The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and the student's parents or guardians.

School staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not discriminate based on race, gender, disability, or any legally protected class.

Disciplinary Consequences for Dress Code Violations

Students who fail to comply with Board policy and regulations concerning student dress will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion in accordance with the Board's policy on student discipline.

First Offense: The administrator or designee issues a warning and provides the student the opportunity to change attire. If unable to change, the student will be provided with a district-issued garment.

Second Offense: The administrator or designee contacts the parent or guardian to discuss the incident. The student is given the opportunity to change attire. If unable to change, the student will be provided with a district-issued garment.

Third Offense: The administrator or designee contacts the parent or guardian to bring the student a change of clothing. The student will receive one day of in-school suspension.

An accumulation of disciplinary infractions, including those related to dress code and defiance, will require a mandatory meeting with a parent or guardian and will lead to discipline up to and including possible expulsion if chronic non-compliance is evident.

****Each infraction noted above shall be documented with a phone call, email, or text notification to the parent or guardian.**

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51 (definition of protective hairstyles)

Policy 6040: Dress Code 6040– Adopted October 3, 1979; Revised January 21, 2009; Revised November 18, 2009; Revised February 23, 2011. Policy Number Changed to 5040 on September 22, 2021 with BOE Approval. Revised and Approved on April 30, 2025.