

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Malden Public Schools is a serious place of learning. There is an expectation that students dress in keeping with reasonable standards of safety, health, and cleanliness, so as not to detract from the educational process. Student attire should not disrupt the educational environment. If a student is wearing clothing that disrupts the educational process, such as clothes that promote drugs, alcohol, or violence, he or she will be asked to go home and change or to wear a t-shirt provided by the school staff. The discretion of administration will prevail in whether the clothing creates a disruption.

In accordance with Massachusetts State Law, students have the right to freedom of expression, provided that such right shall not cause any disruption or disorder within the school. Additionally, Massachusetts law prohibits discrimination based on natural and protective hairstyles.

There is an expectation that students dress in a manner that is appropriate for a place of study; and are obeying to reasonable standards of safety, health, and cleanliness, so as not to detract from the education process. If style demonstrates that it is disruptive to the educational process, constitutes a threat to the safety and health of self and others, or is in violation of any statute, it will not be permitted in school. The intent of this document is to create a standard that will align with overall expectations of appropriate attire that contribute to a positive school environment. By no means is the desired outcome of this document for students to be judged or shamed.

Clothing that creates a risk of substantial and material disruption or disorder within the school is not acceptable. This may include:

- Clothing, including face masks with any picture and/or wording that relates, advertises, or infers to sex, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or displays lewd, vulgar, indecent or “plainly offensive” language (masking is optional)
- Hats, hoods, bandanas, or any other head coverings (except for religious or cultural reasons)
- Clothing worn in such a manner as to reveal undergarments.
- Strapless tops and halter tops.
- Skirts and shorts where buttocks are visible.
- Sunglasses worn inside the school building.
- Clothing or article that suggests gang activities.
- Chains (wallet, belt, large neck chains, etc.).
- Spiked collars, spiked belts, spiked bracelets.
- Pants, when the waist falls below the hip.

The school Principal, having discretion to render judgments regarding what is and what is not appropriate, may, if necessary, waive these policy restrictions in religious and/or medical situations. The Principal will determine what consequences should follow when a student does not comply with this policy. A student may change to wear a school T-Shirt offered by the school, bring their own change of clothes, or a parent/caregivers may be required to bring in a change of clothing.