

UNIFORM DRESS CODE

The Ansonia Board of Education has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire can contribute to a positive learning environment in the following manner:

- (1) Reducing distraction and minimizing disruption in the classroom.
- (2) Providing an environment where students can focus on learning.
- (3) Creating an atmosphere reflecting the seriousness of purpose about education.
- (4) Reflecting a level of respect one has for oneself, one's peers and respect for one's school.
- (5) Creating a greater sense of community amongst the students.
- (6) Preparing students for future roles as responsible members of the community.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their children's dress conforms to the requirements set forth below. The district will facilitate this process by collaborating with a local vendor from whom families can purchase garments. The health, safety, and education of the child must be the concern of every parent/legal guardian. It is the recommendation of professional school personnel that parents/guardians hold their children to the highest standards in regard to school attire. Therefore, the attire that is required for students is as outlined in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Legal Reference: PA 96-101 An Act Concerning School Uniforms

Byars et. al. v. City of Waterbury et. al. (June 3, 1999)

Policy approved:	_____
Policy revised:	April 7, 2004
Policy revised:	August 4, 2008
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Uniform Dress Code for Students

1. Approved “dress” or “docket” style pants, skirts, skorts or shorts (no cargo side pockets) in solid navy blue or khaki.
 - a. Pants, skirts, skorts or shorts must be worn at the waist.
 - b. Jumpers, skirts, skorts and shorts must be no higher than 3” above the knee.
2. Ansonia logo oxford or polo style shirts, long or short sleeved with a collar in solid colors navy blue, white or Carolina blue.
 - a. Ansonia logo polo shirts may be worn outside or tucked into pants or shorts.
 - b. Ansonia logo oxford style shirts must be tucked into pants or shorts.

General

1. Ansonia logo crewneck sweatshirts, vests or sweaters (cardigan, crew, or v-neck style) in solid Carolina blue, solid navy blue or solid white are optional and may be worn over shirts.
2. Shoes or sneakers are allowed. However, footwear which causes noisy distractions, high heels which can cause safety hazards or footwear which causes marks on floors are not permitted.
3. Students may wear solid navy blue or white leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings only under skirts, shorts, skorts or jumpers as described above.
4. Turtlenecks in solid navy blue, white, or Carolina blue underneath Ansonia logo polo style or oxford shirt.
5. Shorts may only be worn between March 1st and November 30th.

Restrictions

Students are **not** permitted to wear the following during the school day:

- a. Blue jeans of any kind.
- b. Leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings unless worn under skirts, shorts, skorts or jumpers.
- c. Skirts, shorts, skorts, dresses or jumpers worn more than three inches above the knee.

Restrictions

- d. Pants worn at a length which is dangerous to themselves or others.
- e. Hooded shirts or sweatshirts.
- f. Clothes which are torn, ripped, ragged or have holes.
- g. Clothes worn to expose midriffs, cleavage or undergarments.
- h. Clothing which displays words, pictures or symbols that advocate or depict profanity, violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, hate groups or gang affiliation.
- i. Clothing that is distracting to the educational process as determined by school administration.
- j. Any article of clothing that covers any part of the face and/or head including but not limited to hats, visors, earmuffs, headbands, do-rags, bandannas, curlers, goggles and sunglasses.
- k. Footwear which is unsafe or a health hazard including but not limited to flip-flops, sandals, clogs, extremely high heels and all open-toed shoes.
- l. Clothing or items indicating gang affiliation.
- m. Oversized jewelry, chains, medallions, and earrings, or wallet/key chains causing danger or distraction.
- n. Any other article of clothing not expressly permitted by this policy.

Religious, Disability and Health Accommodations

Where the bona fide religious beliefs, disability or the health need of a student conflicts with the school uniform dress code policy, the school will provide reasonable accommodation. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs or health need shall not be prohibited under this policy.

Accommodation of Free Expression

Only an approved item containing an expressive message is permitted (i.e., a button supporting a political candidate may be worn). However, expressive items are prohibited if, in the reasonable judgment of school officials, they may tend to disrupt or interfere with educational interests, (i.e., racist messages, sexist messages, gang insignia, messages promoting drug or alcohol abuse, and profane or pornographic messages or illustrations). Also prohibited during the school day are items of clothing that undermine the integrity of required attire, such as a shirt that contains expressive writing.

Clothing Assistance

It is the policy of the Board of Education that no student will be denied an education due to bona fide financial inability to obtain clothing that complies with the Required Attire Policy. Any student, for whom compliance with the school attire policy poses a financial burden, may submit a written request for clothing assistance to the Superintendent of Schools specifying the clothing needed together with a statement of financial need.

Administrative Review

Any student who believes that their school has not reasonably accommodated his or her bona fide religious, health or financial needs or right of free expression, may submit a written request for review to the Ansonia Board of Education. The Board of Education, or its designee, will review the matter and respond in writing to the student's concern.

Compliance

School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with school attire requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the Uniform Dress Code Policy, discipline is appropriate. See "Procedures for Disciplinary Action".

Procedures for Disciplinary Action

First Offense: Contact with parent; written warning; removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class.

Second Offense: Contact with parent; detention.

Third Offense: Contact with parent; in-school suspension.

Fourth and Subsequent Offenses: Contact with parent; suspension (1day), and/or administrative investigation of misbehavior; appropriate application of Ansonia Board of Education Discipline Policy for specific infraction(s).

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