MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION **130 South Centre Street** **Merchantville, New Jersey 08109**	**FILE CODE: 5231** **Proposed: 05/11/2004** **Adopted: 06/24/2004** **Reviewed:** 06/03/2024

Dress Code

The Merchantville Board of Education believes that a strong relationship exists between a pupil's appearance and his / her general attitude and behavior. Inappropriate attire may disrupt school climate and interfere with the attainment of the school district's educational goals.

Parents / guardians are expected to cooperate in helping the school district attain its objectives and foster pride and good taste in appearance by exercising positive guidance and authority.

The board recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress and grooming may be the result of personal style and individual preferences; and the board will not generally interfere with the parent's / guardian's or pupil's right to make decisions regarding appearance, except when the choices negatively effect the educational program, decorum, the rights of other students, and / or goals of the district.

Dress Guidelines

The chief school administrator, or his / her designee, will develop Dress Guidelines to insure that students meet the standards of this policy. The Dress Guidelines will be published in the Student Handbook, on the school Web site, and distributed to all families. The Dress Guidelines will be reviewed annually by a committee consisting of the chief school administrator, or his / her designee, a representative of the teaching staff, and a parent representative. A representative from the student body may also be appointed to the committee.

The chief school administrator, or his / her designee, has the authority to send any student home whose dress or grooming, in the opinion of the school administration, does not meet the Dress Guidelines. The student will be deemed absent until he / she returns to school acceptably dressed.