

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The District Dress Code is designed to establish guidelines which assist pupils in making responsible decisions as they select attire which is appropriate for school. It is important for both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and students to understand that the way one dresses may have a direct effect on one's attitude and behavior. We expect all pupils to appear in clean, sensible attire at all times, and to maintain good grooming habits. Types of clothing, attire, and accessories deemed inappropriate, unsafe, or distracting within an educational setting will be considered unacceptable. It is the intent that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and pupils will follow the dress code guidelines as listed below. If pupils wear inappropriate clothes to school, they are excluded from class and must change into readily available clothes or the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be contacted to provide an outfit that is appropriate, in order to return to class. Continued disregard for the dress code will result in disciplinary action. Please consider your child's health and safety when choosing school clothing and footwear. If you question the appropriateness of a particular item of clothing, that in itself may indicate the item is not acceptable for school wear.

In all matters of the guidelines listed below the school shall be the judge of what is appropriate.

GUIDELINES: The following guidelines listed below should be followed.

1. Clothing
 - a. Skirts, dresses, or shorts must be fingertip length or longer.
 - b. Shirts/tops must be long enough to touch the waistline so midriff is not exposed.
 - c. It is not permitted for skin to show from chest to below mid-thigh (at fingertip length), whether it is uncovered or visible through sheer or open material. This includes any shirt that exposes any part of the back, chest or stomach.
 - d. Attire that is strapless, backless, see-through, or has spaghetti straps will not be permitted.
 - e. Tank tops, halter tops, half shirts, sleeveless shirts, and muscle type shirts shall not be worn.



- f. Attire that is excessively tight, sheer, fishnet, brief, low cut, revealing, or spandex will not be permitted.
 - g. Attire that advertises or refers to alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, sex, and/or gangs is prohibited.
 - h. Attire that is offensive, derogatory, prejudiced, obscene/vulgar or has a double meaning will not be permitted, including patches, slogans, words, symbols, phrases or pictures of an objectionable nature.
 - i. Pajamas/sleepwear is not to be worn.
 - j. Any clothing which exposes undergarments will not be permitted. Pants must be worn around the waist and must cover undergarments.
 - k. Pocket chains, or any other types of clothing chains are not permitted, including those attached to wallets.
 - l. Swimsuit wear is not acceptable.
 - m. Bandanas and scarves are not permitted to be worn in any way, shape or form.
2. Hats/Head Coverings
- a. No head coverings are permitted except for those worn for religious observation. This includes bandanas, sweatbands and hats. These items are to be stored in students' lockers or book bags until dismissal.
3. Shoes
- a. Footwear that is not firmly attached to the foot is not to be worn. Shoes designed for beachwear are not appropriate (ex: flip-flops). Shoes with wheels are not permitted on school grounds. If these shoes with wheels are worn, the wheels must be removed and given to a teacher or administrator.
 - b. Slippers are not to be worn.



- c. Examples of approved footwear include: shoes with straps behind the heel and sneakers.

4. Glasses

- a. Sunglasses, glazed and/or tinted glasses shall not be worn or placed on top of pupils' heads while inside the school building unless the school nurse grants permission. These items are to be stored in pupils' lockers, classroom closet or book bags until dismissal.

5. Jewelry/Accessories

Jewelry/accessories shall not be permitted if they:

- a. Are offensive.
- b. Are a safety concern or dangerous.
- c. Could possibly be used as a weapon (i.e. studded bands, dog chains, etc.)
- d. Purses large enough to carry books are not permitted and must be stored in lockers and/or classroom closet.
- e. Book bags of any kind are not to be worn or carried during the school day and must be stored in the locker and/or classroom closet.

6. Piercing(s)

- a. All pierced jewelry must be removed during P.E. class. Any pierced jewelry that would endanger the wearer (i.e. too large) will not be permitted.

7. Hair

Hair should be clean and well-groomed. Although hairstyle and hair color are largely matters of personal choice, hair should not be worn in such a fashion that the educational program is disrupted or impeded. For example, hairstyles sporting long spikes or unnatural colors tend to distract other pupils from the educational program. In the event that any pupil attends school with a hairstyle that has a demonstrably adverse impact in the classroom, that pupil will be asked to immediately change the hairstyle or hair color before attending school the next day. Exceptions to this rule may occur on special occasions (e.g. "Crazy Hair Day" or "Eagles Day".)



No object should be worn in the hair that could be removed and used as a weapon, or which could cause serious injury to the pupil wearing the object. Traditional objects such as barrettes, scrunchies, small hair combs and hair clips that present no risk of harm are clearly acceptable.

8. Outerwear

Coats, gloves, mittens, and scarves shall not be worn in the school building for health and safety reasons. These items should be kept in the pupils' lockers, coat closets, or book bags. Hoodie sweatshirts can be worn without the hood on the pupils' heads.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 27 July 2009

