

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. Students are expected to follow the school guidelines of dress and appearance at all times while on school grounds. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that promotes a positive learning environment. It is permissible to continue to wear uniforms but **not required** as long as it does not violate the current Student Dress Code Policy.

A. GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

The board prohibits any clothing, jewelry, and/or accessories that promote illegal drug use, gang affiliation or activity, sexual activity, violence or hate group activity, intimidation, provocative content, alcohol or tobacco usage, create a substantial disruption to the educational environment, or are harmful content to the instructional process. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, or other items worn or displayed with the intent to convey or promote membership in a gang or any gang affiliation.
2. Tobacco, alcohol, and novelty T-shirts, accessories, or other clothing items that shows sexual, provocative, or damaging content.

B. DRESS CODE

1. **Dresses, skirts, and shorts.** Dresses, skirts, and shorts shall not be revealing or indecent. All skirts and dresses must reach the top of the knee and the splits should not be high enough to be deemed inappropriate or provocative. Shorts may be no shorter than one inch above the knee. Shorts made of stretch material may not be worn as an outer garment. No sagging shorts or those that have splits on the sides.
2. **Tops.** Tops (shirts, blouses, sweaters) shall not be indecent. No tank tops or spaghetti straps. Sleeveless tops must not show cleavage or undergarments. All tops must cover the waist, midriff, and go past the waistline. Form-fitting and stretch material may not be worn as an outer garment.
3. **Pants.** Pants with holes or tears are unacceptable. Form-fitting, stretch material may not be worn as an outer garment. Tights and leggings may be worn only under garments which meet the dress code. Tight clothing such as knit or spandex bicycle/biker pants or overly tight pants are not allowed. Pants must be worn at the waist (no sagging). Pant legs must be down, not rolled up. Undergarments are not to be visible.

4. **Head coverings.** Bonnets, headgear, head scarfs, do-rags, bandanas, hats, caps or sunglasses may not be worn inside the building except for medical reasons or religious observance, as agreed upon with the school administrator. Hoodies and coats with hoods may not be worn with the hood over the head inside the building at any time. Toboggans and hats may be worn outside as weather dictates.
5. **Footwear.** Footwear must be shoes or sandals. Bedroom shoes and shower shoes are not acceptable. All footwear must be properly tied or fastened.
6. **Jewelry.** Jewelry with sharp edges, such as collars, waistbands, or choker with spikes, wallet chains, or other such items are not permitted.
7. **Insignias, monograms, or patches.** Lettering or any type of sewn-on patch, decal, insignia, etc., which is suggestive, creates a substantial disruption, vulgar or refers to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs is not allowed.

C. VIOLATIONS

For a first violation of this policy, the student will be asked to remove or correct the inappropriate item. The second offense, parents/guardians will be notified and if necessary, parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing for the student. Further disciplinary action will be taken for habitual or repeat violations of the school dress code. All school staff and faculty are expected to strictly enforce the student dress code requirements and promptly report violations to administration.

The policy is to be applied equitably, impartially, and consistently without regards to race, gender or other discriminating characteristics. Principals or designees shall make reasonable accommodations for religious, medical or disability-related exceptions and cultural celebrations, when appropriate. *Principals may use their discretion to approve attire outside of prescribed dress code policy for special school functions.*

D. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of ALL staff members to monitor and enforce the Student Dress Code. **All faculty/staff members will report any violations to the principal or his/her designee.**

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315)

Adopted: November 25, 2013

Revised: March 24, 2014; July 25, 2016