



Wicomico County Board of Education

WCBOE Student Dress Code Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of the WCBOE Student Dress Code Policy is to create and support a positive school climate of respect for self and others, reduce the occurrence of discipline problems, and maintain safety and order in the school so that effective teaching and learning may take place. Schools may choose to participate in a consistent attire program to which this same dress code policy applies.

II. Responsibilities With Regard to Dress Code Policy

A. The responsibilities of the school are to:

1. Foster academic achievement;
2. Create and maintain a school environment that is safe, orderly, and conducive to learning;
3. Promote and support positive community standards and values such as civility; respect for others, self-respect, citizenship and other constructive character traits and behaviors.

B. The responsibility of the students is to choose their attire, arrange their personal appearance, and maintain their personal hygiene in a manner that is safe, healthy, non-offensive, and conducive to the educational process.

C. The responsibilities of the school staff members are to:

1. Report violations of the Dress Code Policy through visual identification without physical measurement or touch in any manner;
2. Respectfully address students who are out of compliance with the policy;
3. Ensure application of the Dress Code Policy for physical education classes;
4. Maintain an awareness of attire related to gang affiliation so that the Dress Code Policy can be implemented effectively.

D. The responsibilities of the administrators are to:

1. Investigate reports of violations of the Dress Code Policy;
2. Encourage students to make better choices in attire;
3. Assign appropriate consequences for infractions;
4. Apply the specific units of measure for widths and lengths as provided in the policy to ensure that the policy is measurable and to alleviate misinterpretations of the policy;
5. Ensure application of the Dress Code Policy for physical education classes;
6. Maintain an awareness of attire related to gang affiliation so that the Dress Code Policy can be implemented effectively;
7. Establish and communicate guidelines for sports and extra-curricular uniforms worn during the school day;
8. Maintain ultimate discretion for the decisions concerning any dress code issues which are addressed or inferred in this policy.

Approval Status

Index Code

Title: WCBOE Student Dress Code Policy
First Adopted:
Legal Review:
Approved Revisions: 12/08/15 03/09/10
Effective: 12/08/15 03/10/10

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III. Exceptions to Policy

Principals may grant exceptions to the dress code for disabilities, medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs if such accommodations are reasonable and do not pose a hardship for the school. Principals may also grant exceptions for specific school-sponsored events or situations.

IV. Dress Code Criteria

A. Head Coverings

1. May not be worn in buildings
2. Prohibited head coverings include:
 - a. Hats
 - b. Head coverings of any kind, including bandanas, visors or hoods
 - c. Sunglasses
 - d. Curlers, picks or combs
 - e. Anything deemed gang-related
3. Should not be wider than one and one-half (1 ½) inches. (i.e. headband, barrette, etc.)
4. Hair should be neat and well-groomed.

B. Tops

1. Cover the entire back and shoulders, including tank-style tops; razorback style tops are inappropriate and not permitted to be worn
2. Cover the midriff and back when sitting or standing
3. Be of sufficient thickness so that the undergarments cannot be seen
4. Fit modestly so that cleavage is covered (as measured by a horizontal line across the top of the armpit)
5. Cover undergarments completely (including bra straps, muscle shirts, and camisoles)
6. Fit so they are not tight to the skin or overly baggy

C. Bottoms

1. All bottoms:
 - a. Cover undergarments at all times
 - b. Be of safe length (cannot drag on floor)
 - c. Be worn no lower than the natural waistline
 - d. Remain at natural waistline without assistance other than a belt or suspenders (measured by student placing hands on hips)
 - e. Not resemble what is considered bedroom attire
 - f. Fit so they are not tight to the skin or overly baggy (leggings and tights are not appropriate bottoms)
2. Skirts, dresses and jumpers:
 - a. Be no shorter than three (3) inches above the top of the knee while standing (width of a 3" X 5" index card)

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- b. Be no shorter than three (3) inches above the top of the knee even when worn with leggings or tights
 3. Skorts and shorts:
 - a. Be no shorter than five (5) inches above the top of the knee while standing (length of a 3" X 5" index card)
 - b. Be no shorter than five (5) inches above the top of the knee even when worn with leggings or tights
- D. Outerwear (jackets and coats made specifically for outdoor use)
 1. Be removed upon entering the building and stored appropriately
 2. Note: Principals may alter this requirement as necessary for the specific conditions within the school.
- E. Footwear
 1. Be worn at all times
 2. Fit secure enough to the foot for safe movement
 3. Not resemble what is considered a bedroom slipper
 4. Have a hard or rubber sole
 5. Not have such a high heel as to cause concern for safe movement throughout the school
 6. Be appropriate to the student's educational program (i.e. steel-toed shoes for construction classes, tennis shoes/sneakers for physical education classes)
 7. Elementary students:
 - a. May not wear flip flops to school,
 - b. Must wear shoes closed in the back or have a back strap on footwear such as sandals or clog-style shoes.
- F. Jewelry, piercings, perfumes, and accessories
 1. Be modest without attracting undue attention to the wearer
 2. Be unobtrusive so as not to endanger others' ability to be comfortable and healthy
 3. Not have an overwhelming fragrance so as to infringe on others' comfort and health
 4. Have no parts that may be perceived as a weapon (i.e. spikes)
 5. Have no chains, large belt buckles or adornments that could cause, or be perceived to cause, injury or damage
 6. Include only those scarves which are intended for indoor use
- G. Appearance, language on clothing, symbols, tattoos and messages must not show, reference or infer:
 1. Profanity
 2. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, firearms or weapons
 3. Violence or abuse
 4. Suggestive and/or sexual messages
 5. Language, brand logos or symbols as or on attire that offend, demean or promote hatred toward an identifiable person or group based on a person's race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation or disability

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6. Words, symbols or placement of writing on clothing deemed inappropriate for the school setting such as rude, disrespectful or discourteous expressions that would have an effect on the learning environment
7. Anything deemed gang-related

V. Consequences for Violation of the Dress Code Policy

A. First Offense

1. Student conference with administrator to discuss the violation(s) and review the dress code policy
2. Parent contact by the administrator to discuss the violation of the policy and subsequent consequences should more violations occur
3. Change of clothing by student to rectify violation (provided by the student or parent)

B. Second and Subsequent Offenses

1. Student conference with administrator to discuss the violation(s) and review the dress code policy
2. Parent contact by the administrator to discuss the violation of the policy and subsequent consequences should more violations occur
3. Change of clothing by student to rectify violation (provided by the student or parent)
4. Student discipline disposition involving non-exclusionary discipline actions (does not include in-school suspension and/or out of school suspension, reference Code of Conduct) at the discretion of the administrator

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