

WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

DRESS CODE AND GROOMING

No. 506

I. PURPOSE

The Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board also recognizes the right of students to express themselves as more fully set forth in Policy No. 536. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions affecting their appearance except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools or the health and safety of the student or other students.

Students are responsible to keep themselves, their hair and their clothing clean. They shall also dress to conform to the contemporary standards of health, safety, decency, and optimum learning conditions, and in good taste in order that they do not disrupt the academic process. All students are expected to exemplify proper grooming standards in a manner that projects an appropriate image for the student, school and district.

Whether or not a student is dressed appropriately or properly groomed shall be left to the discretion of the Building Administrator or his/her designee. When following Policy 506 guidelines, Administrators may use discretion based upon the student's age and/or developmental level.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent, Building Administrators and/or designees to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices which:

- present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school
- materially interfere with school work, create disorder, disrupt the educational program or disturb classroom decorum
- cause excessive wear or damage to school property
- prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

A student whose clothing or apparel violates the dress code will be asked to return home to change their clothing, to change their clothing within the school building or to add additional clothing in the event that the Building Administrator believes that this policy is violated. When length or style of hair presents a health or safety hazard, some type of covering shall be used.

Building administrators shall establish procedures and a minimum inventory of appropriate student clothing to provide replacements to offer students in violation prior to sending them home.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, shops, extracurricular activities or in other situations when special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.

II. GUIDELINES

The Board maintains that clothes make a difference in attitude and behavior and may reflect academic achievement. Any type of dress which endangers health and/or safety or is distracting to the educational environment will not be permitted. Requirements for student dress in all schools are listed below:

- a. All shirts and blouses must cover midriff, back, sides, cleavage and all undergarments including bra straps at all times. Abbreviated tops (halter, tube bare midriff, muscle shirt or sleeveless attire that exposes underwear (including sports bras), is too low cut, or does not have form fitting armholes is not permitted.
- b. Shorts, skirts, divided skirts, dresses and culottes are permitted. They must be longer than a student's fingertips when standing in a normal position with the arms down.
- c. All trousers, pants, shorts or skirts must totally cover undergarments, including boxer shorts.
- d. All clothing, jewelry or tattoos shall be free of the following: profanity, violent images, sexually suggestive phrases or images, gang related symbols, alcohol, tobacco, drugs or advertisements for such products.
- e. Safe and appropriate footwear must be worn. Athletic shoes, laced shoes and/or shoe boots, loafers, dress shoes or other closed toed/closed heel shoes. Mules described as closed toed and open heel are appropriate. Shoes considered as sandals are appropriate. Students shall not wear house slippers, roller skates, skate shoes or any other type of footwear that could constitute a safety hazard. Students are prohibited from wearing steel toed boots or shoes to school.
- f. Form fitting leotard/spandex type clothing (including sports bras) is not permitted unless proper outer garments cover it.
- g. See through or mesh fabric clothing may only be worn over clothing meeting the aforesaid requirements.
- h. Clothing must be appropriate size, with the waist of the garment worn at the student's waist.

- i. Clothing not properly buttoned, zipped, fastened or with inappropriate holes or tears shall not be worn.
- j. Clothing or footwear traditionally designed as undergarments or sleepwear shall not be worn as outer garments.
- k. Sunglasses may not be worn inside unless a parent provides a doctor's note to the school.
- l. Bandanas, sweatbands and other headgear such as hats, hoods, caps, scarves, skullcaps are not permitted to be worn inside the school buildings during the regular school hours, except headwear worn for legitimate religious purposes. In addition, hair rollers, hair curlers, plastic hair bags, hairnets, sweat bands are also not permitted during school hours. Hats or other head coverings may be worn during outside physical education activities.
- m. Students shall not, except when entering or leaving the building, wear outer garments such as jackets or winter coats during the school day.

Statutory references:

Public School Code of 1949, as amended, Sections 510, 1317

Regulatory references:

Pa Code, Title 22, Chapter 12

Cross reference:

Policy 536 Freedom of Expression

APPROVED: 11/15/93

REVISED: 06/15/09