

XVIII. SECONDARY STUDENT DRESS CODE

Student dress is applicable during school hours and at all school sponsored activities including athletic events, dances, school trips, etc. Personal grooming is primarily the responsibility of the student and parent. Students are expected to come to school and school-sponsored activities and events clean, neat, and appropriately attired. Students whose personal attire or grooming distracts the attention of other students or teachers from school work or which may be hazardous to themselves or to others in the course of school and school-sponsored activities shall be required to make the necessary alterations. Students who fail to meet the minimum acceptable standards of cleanliness and neatness, as determined by the principal or designee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures including suspension. The dress code is applicable at all school sponsored activities and events.

SECONDARY STUDENT DRESS CODE FOR UNIFORM AND NON-UNIFORM SCHOOLS

A. SECONDARY DRESS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Pants and trousers shall be worn properly fastened so that the waistband is not below the top of the hip bone. Pant hems shall not extend beyond the heel of the shoe. All pants and trousers shall be worn with belts except sweat pants, etc. which are clearly manufactured and designed to be worn without a belt. Athletic wear with an elastic waist may be worn without a belt.
2. The hem or slit of skirts, shorts, or dresses shall be worn no shorter than two inches above the top of the knee. Skirts and shorts shall be properly fastened so that the waistband is not below the top of the hip bone.
3. Shirts, T-shirts, and blouses shall be of appropriate size and length to cover the waistband while sitting or standing. Long t-shirts are not permitted. The hem of a shirt shall not extend past the wearer's finger tips while standing.
4. Caps, hats, hoods, scarves, and other head coverings shall not be worn in any building, except those worn for religious or medical purposes.
5. Overalls or any bibbed garment may be worn with an appropriate shirt or blouse underneath and all straps and buttons shall be securely fastened.

6. The dress code shall not prohibit students from wearing coats, jackets, sweaters, or other appropriate outer garments when necessary due to inclement weather or temperature conditions.

B. THE FOLLOWING SECONDARY CLOTHING ITEMS ARE PROHIBITED:

1. Accessories that may be potentially dangerous and may include but are not limited to spiked arm bands, spiked necklaces, heavy chains, studded garments or accessories, or other objects;
2. Clothing or accessories associated with gangs or any garment with obscene, offensive, intimidating language or images relating to gangs or violence;
3. Clothing or accessories that reference the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or violence;
1. Clothing or accessories associated with discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race, religious creed, color, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or disability;
2. Clothing exposing the torso or upper thighs such as see-through garments, spaghetti straps, mini-skirts, mini-dresses, halters, backless dresses or shirts, tube tops, tank tops, bare midriff outfits, etc. or shirts and/or blouses tied at the midriff;
6. Clothing that promotes sexually suggestive material;
7. Clothing not properly fastened;
8. Visible undergarments, such as boxer shorts, bras, and thongs;
9. Undergarments worn as outer garments;
10. Nightwear/loungewear/pajamas;
11. Tight fitting clothing made of spandex or spandex-like fabric, including bicycle shorts;
12. Excessively large or form-fitting clothing that is disruptive to the order and discipline of the school setting or constitutes a safety hazard to the student(s);
13. Footwear that is deemed hazardous or dangerous to the health and safety of students or others, such as bedroom slippers, or cleats. The principal may further designate the footwear that is permissible under the dress code policy;

14. Clothing that exposes private body areas including cleavage, groin, buttocks, navel, and midriff, garments that have rips, holes, or fraying beyond ordinary wear and tear as determined by the principal or principal's designee.
15. Articles of clothing, jewelry, buttons, haircuts, tattoos, markings, body piercing, or other attire that is disruptive, offensive, suggestive, or indecent or considered a safety issue.
16. Sunglasses shall not be worn inside the building.
17. Other inappropriate or disruptive items as determined by principal/principal's designee.

C. EXCEPTIONS TO THE DRESS CODE SHALL BE PERMITTED WHEN:

1. A student wears a button, armband, or other accoutrement to exercise the right of free speech guaranteed by the United States and Florida Constitutions, unless the button, armband, or other accoutrement signifies or is related to gangs, gang membership, gang activity, discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race, religious creed, color, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or disability, or would otherwise violate the dress code policy.
2. A student wears a costume or special clothing necessary for a school play or other school sponsored activity as permitted by the principal.
3. A student wears clothing in the intended manner of a nationally-recognized youth organization, i.e., JROTC, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, on regular meeting days.
4. The wearing of clothing in compliance with the dress code violates a student's sincerely held religious belief. Parents are urged to contact the principal/designee immediately regarding any religious dress requirements.

D. SECONDARY DISCIPLINARY CODE

1. A student's failure to adhere to the provisions of the student dress code as set forth above shall constitute a violation of student code and shall be subject to discipline as follows:

- a. First offense - Verbal warning to student; student provided appropriate clothing to wear from the school's clothes locker if available or by the parent; attempt to notify parent of violation.
- b. Second offense - Parent contacted to pick up student and/or bring appropriate clothes; conference with the parent(s) to discuss further consequences.
- c. Third and subsequent offenses - Student will be placed in OSS (out-of-school suspension) and/or other discipline action to be determined by school as set forth in the "Interventions/Consequences" section of the Discipline Procedures for the Escambia County Schools in the most recent edition of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, Grade 6-12*. (Page 10 of this document)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Students enrolled in an Alternative Education Disciplinary Program shall be required to dress in accordance with the dress code policy in effect at the Alternative Education School.

UNIFORMS

- A. The School Advisory Council (SAC) shall confer with the principal to determine whether there is a need/justification to consider an election to adopt the District-Wide Uniform for a period of two (2) years at both the elementary and secondary levels. The School Advisory Council's intention to discuss this subject with the school's parent population will be advertised at least seven (7) calendar days in advance. The process can be found in [School Board Rule 7.19](#).
- B. District-Wide School Uniform Standard: The District's uniform shall consist of solid colored khaki, navy, or black trousers, skirts, shorts, or jumpers. Shirts shall be collared and will be solid white, red, or dark blue and worn tucked in. *Students in grades K-5 shall not be required to tuck in their shirts.* Pull-over sweat shirts or solid sweaters of appropriate uniform colors may be worn over uniform shirt or blouse. No denim shall be allowed at the secondary level.
- C. In addition, the school uniform and appearance shall be governed by the same provisions as in the secondary dress code A, B, C, and D.

D. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Financial Hardships: No student shall be denied attendance at school or be otherwise penalized for failing to wear clothing that complies with the uniform policy if such failure is due to financial hardship.
2. Assistance: Each school's principal and SAC in collaboration with the School District shall develop procedures and criteria to offer assistance to students who are having difficulty complying with the District's uniform policy due to financial hardships. Each school is encouraged to develop a program with the school district to provide for donations of clothing, financial assistance or through programs that would alleviate financial hardship.
3. New Students: Students entering the Escambia County Public School System or transferring from a school without a mandatory uniform policy during the school year, shall be granted a grace period of up to thirty days to comply with the mandatory uniform policy at the new school.