

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education recognizes each pupil's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the pupil's personal style and individual preferences. The Board will impose its judgment on pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) only when a pupil's dress and grooming affect the educational program of the schools.

Pupils may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that present a health or safety hazard to the individual pupil or to others; materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program; cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or prevent the pupil from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The Board of Education prohibits pupils from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the pupil has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law enforcement agency will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

Pupil attire determined to be obscene, indecent, offensive to any race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, depicting illegal items or activity, including guns, alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, etc., shall not be permitted.

Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times on school grounds unless exceptions are made by the Building Principal or designated activities or in designated areas.

Good judgment when selecting clothing for school is expected. Weekend attire might not be appropriate for classes. Clothing, hairstyles, or other adornment may not interfere with the health and safety of any pupil and may not disrupt the educational process of the school. At the request of a staff member, items of clothing which are found offensive or questionable or which suggest a double meaning will be removed or replaced by pupils.

Fashion items that are not in good taste or dress that disrupts the educational process include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Necklines that are too low;
2. Bare midriffs;
3. Shorts, skirts, dresses, or shirts that are extremely tight, short, or transparent; or



4. Pants that permit the display of underwear, whether because they are worn low or have a low rise.

Staff members may ask pupils to remove hats during class.

The Building Principal shall determine whether the dress or grooming of pupils comes within these prohibitions.

Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

The Superintendent shall, on consultation with staff members, pupils, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), prepare a dress code that imposes only minimum and necessary limitations on a pupil's taste and individuality.

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

Adopted: 7 December 2009

