

DRESS AND GROOMING

A safe learning environment is the first requirement of a good school. Young people who are safe and secure learn easier and are apt to display the essentials of good citizenship; thus, they become better students. Many parents, teachers, and school officials recognize uniform dress as one positive and creative way to increase student achievement and increase school safety. The adoption of the Uniform Dress Code can improve discipline and enhance the learning environment. The potential benefits of uniform dress include:

- Helping parents and students resist peer pressure
- Helping students concentrate on their schoolwork
- Helping school officials recognize intruders within a school

As a result, the district will implement uniform dress for all elementary and middle school students according to **Board Policy JCDB-R (1)**. This initiative has proven successful for elementary, middle and high school students. The following information on uniform dress is provided to assist parents and students with shopping choices for the school year.

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE

TOPS OR SHIRTS

- Tops should have either a polo style collar or button-down color
- Shirts should be tucked inside pants, shorts or skirts
- Colors for tops may be school colors, or white
- Shirts should cover the waistline

PANTS, SHORTS, AND SKIRTS

- Bottoms should be khaki style or dress pants in khaki, blue, or black colors

OTHER ITEMS

- Belts are required with no sagging of pants
- Jeans are not included in uniform dress
- Flip-flops, shower shoes, skate shoes and house slippers are not permitted
- No headgear of any kind is allowed. (Exceptions are considered for headwear or scarves worn as a part of a student's religious practice or documented medical reasons)
- Skinny pants, tights, or leggings that substitute as pants are not acceptable
- Pants must be completely fastened, belted, buttoned or fastened and without tears
- Pants shall be worn so that the waistband is worn at the waist and not below
- Shorts and skirts may not be shorter than three inches above the knee

DESIGN, EMBLEMS AND LETTERING

- Any design, emblem or lettering which refers to or promotes drugs, alcohol, profanity, immodesty or racial, ethnic or sexual discrimination is not allowed.
- No graphic, pictures, or writing on clothing is permitted except as part of an insignia
- No larger than 4 inches by 4 inches

“DRESS UP” OR “PROFESSIONAL DRESS” DAYS

School principals have the discretion to allow students to “Dress Up” or wear “Professional Dress” on designated days. Principals will provide notice of those days. **Students who do not participate on these designated days must adhere to the Uniform Dress Code.**

“DRESS DOWN” DAYS

School principals have the discretion to allow students to “Dress Down” on designated days. Dress Down days may be given as a reward based on school-wide behavior. Principals will provide notice to students and parents of those days. **Students who do not participate on these designated days must adhere to the Uniform Dress Code. Dress Down clothing must meet criteria for acceptable school clothing and comply with all school rules and regulations.**

OUTER GARMENTS

The Uniform Dress Code does not prohibit students from wearing coats, jackets, sweaters, or other appropriate outer garments when necessary due to weather conditions or other legitimate reasons and shall be the appropriate size for the student, not be overly baggy, or violate any other provisions of this protocol.

- Long overcoats or sweaters that can conceal contraband will be removed immediately upon arrival at the school or school function.
- Students with disabilities may be granted a reasonable accommodation. Such requests shall be produced in writing and submitted to the principal for approval.

The principal is authorized to grant exemptions to the standard dress code for religious reasons, disabilities, debilitating conditions, or extraordinary circumstances. Students granted an exemption must dress in the appropriate manner approved by the principal.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE PROTOCOL

All students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for adherence to the Clayton County Board policies and procedures. Teachers and all other school personnel will reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. School personnel are responsible for maintaining proper and appropriate conditions conducive to learning.

1. Should the student arrive at school out of uniform, the student is expected to change into said uniform. Failure to do so is treated as insubordination.
2. Any student who refuses to do so is subject to discipline including study hall and detention.
3. Students who violate the Uniform Dress Code will face disciplinary action involving one of the following:
 - Parent Contact (administrator or designee)
 - Verbal warning and dress code violation corrected
 - Modification of clothing

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS– DRESS CODE AND GROOMING

High School students are not required to wear a school assigned uniform for the 2019-2020 school year unless required by a specific program, discipline or academy. However, students must dress appropriately and adhere to the policy described below.

APPROPRIATE SIZES

Students shall wear clothing of appropriate size. Parents are expected to buy proper sized clothing. The size of shirts and pants shall be appropriate to the student's body size and shall not be unduly oversized or undersized. Skinny pants, tights, or leggings that substitute as pants are not acceptable. Tights and leggings must be worn under a skirt that meets the length requirement (no more than 3 inches above the knee) of the dress code.

UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE

Students are not allowed to wear clothing, jewelry (including body piercing jewelry and "grills"), buttons, haircuts, tattoos, or other attire with markings that are offensive, suggestive, disruptive, or indecent such as:

- Clothing associated with gangs (including bandanas of any color)
- Clothing encouraging the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence
- Clothing associated with discrimination based on age, color, handicap, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, race, religion, or sex
- Clothing exposing the upper chest cleavage, torso, buttocks, upper thighs including see-through garments, mini-skirts, mini-dresses, halters, backless dresses, tube tops and tank tops without over shirts, spaghetti strap garments without over shirts, crop tops, bare midriff outfits, or shirts tied at the midriff. All skirts and shorts must meet the required length (no more than 3 inches above the knee).
- Intentionally altered clothing or unbuttoned and ill-fitted garments are not acceptable
- Ill-fitted garments include, but are not limited to, garments that are too small or too large, transparent, mesh, or see-through. Skintight clothing is not allowed. Clothing must be completely buckled, belted, buttoned, or fastened
- Cut or frayed clothing with holes or patched holes is not allowed (no holes above the knee)
- Skinny pants, tights, leggings, jeggings or yoga pants that substitute as pants are not allowed
- Clothing not properly fastened or with tears
- Sleeveless shirts are not allowed
- No towels, wash cloths, or handkerchiefs are to be carried to school or used at school with exception of physical education class
- Clothing or outer garments traditionally designed as undergarments such as boxer shorts, bloomers, tights, hosiery, and sleepwear, pajamas
- Clothing or footwear (flip flops, slides, house shoes, bedroom slippers) that is construed by the principal or designee as hazardous or dangerous to the health of the students or others
- Hats, headgear (wave caps, bonnets, hoodies, bandanas and shower caps), or any head covering, except when approved by the principal (Exceptions will be considered in the case of headwear or scarves worn as a part of a student's religious practice or for documented medical reasons)

UNACCEPTABLE SHORTS

Athletic shorts including spandex-style "bicycle" shorts, cut-off jeans, frayed jeans or pants, cut-off sweat pants, short-shorts, running shorts, and see-through boxer-type shorts are not permitted.

