

### 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.

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: 17 March 2010  
Revisions Adopted: 29 June 2022

The following dress code has been developed in accordance with Policy No. 5511.

A. General Rules

1. Pupils are expected to be clean and well-groomed in their appearance.
2. Pupils are expected to avoid dress and grooming that is likely to create a material and substantial disruption to the school environment.
3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health or safety of the pupil or of other pupils or is injurious to school property will not be tolerated.

B. Pupil Dress Code Regulations

1. Pupil attire shall be neat and clean. Torn, cut and ripped clothing is not permitted.
2. Apparel shall not be so tight-fitting, sheer, transparent, brief, low-cut or revealing above or below the waist to be indecent, distracting or disruptive to the school environment.
3. In all grades, dresses, skirts and acceptable shorts shall not be more than 4 inches above the knee.
4. Sleeveless tops or blouses are permitted provided that the width of the material passing over the shoulders (strap) is a minimum of two inches in width. Thin spaghetti straps tops are not permitted. Sweat-shirts, warm-ups, and T-shirts are permitted if they are not torn or not cut or tied to expose the midriff.
5. Footwear is required. Plastic beach thongs and excessively high heels or platform shoes are not permitted because they pose a safety hazard to the wearer when walking quickly. Slippers of any type are not permitted. All sandals must have a heel strap attached and worn appropriately, at all times.
6. Dress shall not present inappropriate pictures, slogans, emblems or any type of symbols that may be provocative or inciting. This includes liquor, tobacco or other substances that may be detrimental to health.

7. "Quasi-attire", such as armbands, buttons, pins or other methods of symbolic expression are permitted as long as it cannot potentially be expected to actually cause disruption, disorder or present a clear danger and is not associated with a gang or secret society.
8. Pupils attending any school functions (field trips, dances, activities during school hours) will not be permitted to participate unless they are attired in accordance with this dress code; however, certain physical education activities and field trips may require modification of these regulations. Decisions will be made by the principal considering the circumstances and requirements of the activity.
9. Hairstyles shall be clean and well-groomed.
10. Hats and coats may not be worn in the building except in extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the principal. "Hats" shall not include head wear of religious significance.
11. Hoodies (head covering) are not permitted.

C. Physical Education

Proper dress for physical education classes should be designed to allow for maximum participation in activities consistent with the approved curriculum and course of study. Appropriate dress for grades 7-12 will be T-shirts, athletic shorts, or sweatsuits (as appropriate) in green, navy or grey. Sneakers and athletic socks are also required.

It should be noted that, with the exception of sneakers, clothing used for participation in physical education activities may not be those worn to school for any other purpose.

D. Enforcement

1. Pupils not conforming to the dress code shall be disciplined by the principal in accordance with Board policies.
2. Teaching staff members will report perceived violations of the dress code to the Building Principal, who will interpret and apply the code.
3. Pupils who publicly represent the school or a school organization at an activity away from the school district are required to dress in full accordance with the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge of the activity. Pupils unwilling to comply with this requirement will disqualify themselves from participation.



4. Pupils will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip, after-school activity unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with this dress code.
5. The principal may waive application of the dress code on a day especially scheduled for pupils' free expression in dress and grooming.
6. A pupil whose dress or grooming has been found by the principal to violate this regulation may appeal the principal's determination to the Superintendent/designee, whose decision will be final.