

Student Dress Code

A. Generally

School personnel have the responsibility to protect the health and safety of students and to maintain proper and appropriate conditions that promote learning. Based on the belief that school is a place of business where students are learning both academic and social skills, the Dickenson County School Board requires that all students dress appropriately. In accordance with the purpose of this dress code, no student shall present himself or herself to school in a manner, which is plainly offensive to others or is likely to cause disruption. As provided herein, the administration shall prohibit any clothing, jewelry, similar attachments, or accessories, which have a substantial and material disruptive effect on the school atmosphere or represents a clear safety concern for students and/or staff. School clothing should be appropriate as to time, place and weather conditions. Any form of dress or appearance that disrupts or distracts from the purpose or conduct of school that is considered contrary to good hygiene, or that threatens the safety of one's self or others will not be permitted.

1. Students shall wear appropriate clothing and footwear and groom themselves for school in a manner that does not offend the common rules of decency or reflect negatively on or distract from any phase of the educational program. Appropriate dress is clothing that covers the body sufficiently so as not to attract excessive attention to one's self.
2. Messages on clothing, jewelry and personal belongings that relate to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, vulgarity, violence or that represent gang activity or membership or that advertise obscenities or that reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, national origin or ancestry are not permitted.
3. Any article of clothing, footwear, jewelry or other accessory that suggest, identifies or otherwise promotes "gang" related and/or endorses/promotes subversive activities will not be permitted.
4. For health and safety purposes, appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Going barefoot is not acceptable.

B. Specific Guidelines

The following guidelines are examples that are intended to be age appropriate for all students in kindergarten through grade 12. They include but are not limited to:

1. Any item of clothing, jewelry, adornment, etc. which may be distracting or may materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school or which represents a potential danger to self or others will not be permitted.

2. Footwear must be worn at all times and should be appropriate for normal activities. Socks without other footwear are not considered appropriate. Tennis shoes are appropriate. It is recommended to not wear flip flops (beach type) to school. Other open-heeled footwear is deemed appropriate. Sport shoes with cleats are not acceptable for inside wear.
3. Some school programs, such as industrial technology, laboratory activities, physical education and interscholastic athletics may require special hair care and clothing to ensure the health and safety of all students.
4. Hats, visors, bandannas and sunglasses (unless required by a physician) may not be worn inside the building.
5. Shorts/dresses/skirts must be of appropriate length. Traditionally, the hem of shorts/dresses/skirts must hang below the extended fingertips when standing. Shorts/dresses/skirts should be no shorter than mid-thigh when standing. The following shorts are not acceptable: very short shorts, such as the thin nylon, athletic type shorts with side slits, biker, jogging, swimwear, cut-offs, gym shorts (except in physical education classes and athletic practices). Athletic and cheerleading uniforms, which do not meet the criteria established above, may not be worn during classes.
6. Shirts or blouses should be of sufficient length so they may be tucked in the waistband. Pants/shorts/skirts shall be appropriately sized and worn at the natural waistline.
7. No undergarments (including boxer shorts and sports bras) should be readily visible or be worn as outer garments.
8. Strapless tops, tops with "spaghetti" straps, traditional tank tops with narrow straps and cut-away underarms, tube tops, bare back or bare midriff style, mesh or "fish net" style apparel are not permitted. If sleeveless garments are worn, underwear may not be readily visible.
9. Clothes with holes exposing underwear or private areas are not permitted.
10. T-shirts, articles of clothing and badges or buttons that have writing, symbols or slogans encouraging the use of alcohol, drugs, sex, profanity, vulgarity, violence, promotion of racial prejudice, or subversive activities may not be worn.
11. Clothing usually worn outdoors such as heavy coats, raincoats, jackets or gloves should not be worn in the building under normal circumstances.

12. In schools where lockers are provided, backpacks will not be permitted in the classroom. Backpacks should be placed in lockers upon arrival at school and not picked up until school is dismissed.
13. Accessories typically, referred to as "animal jewelry" such as heavy chains, dog collars, or spiked collars are not permitted.

Decisions regarding the appropriateness of clothing, footwear, hair and accessories will be made by the building principal or designee. Initially, items deemed inappropriate will be called to the attention of the parent(s) for corrective action. Students may be required to call home for a change of clothing and/or will be assigned to In-School-Suspension (ISS) for the remainder of the day. Repeated violations of the dress code may result in suspension from school.

The board believes that the primary responsibility for appropriate dress, grooming and overall appearance of students rests with the parents of students and with the student.

ADOPTED: July 2004

TEACHER DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE

The Dickenson County School Board recognizes the right of teachers to exercise personal judgment in matters of dress and personal appearance, within certain boundaries. At the school and division levels appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment.

Teachers should dress appropriately as a professional educator. Under no circumstances shall teachers' dress standards fall below those outlined in the dress code for students. Teachers' dress should meet or exceed those standards.

Research proves that the type of clothing worn by teachers affects the work, attitude, and discipline of students. Teachers should dress to achieve these effects:

- 1) Respect
- 2) Credibility
- 3) Acceptance
- 4) Authority

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