

Descriptor Term:  <b>STUDENT DRESS CODE</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>JCDB</b>	Issued Date: <b>3-15-11</b>
	Rescinds: <b>JCDB</b>	Issued: <b>4-27-10</b>

**Student Dress Code**

Purpose: To establish the expectations for student dress code.

**Statement of Policy**

Colleton County School District students are expected to dress and be groomed in such a way as to not distract or cause disruption in the educational program or orderly operation of the school. Students should dress for the educational setting and not the recreational one. To maintain an educational environment that is safe and conducive to the educational process, students in all grades will wear an approved school uniform with only legally-mandated exceptions.

**Statement of Purpose**

The Colleton County School District has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire can further important educational interests, including the following:

- reducing distractions and loss of self-esteem caused by teasing or competition over clothing
- minimizing disruptions from wearing inappropriate clothing or possessing inappropriate items at school
- providing an environment where students can focus more on learning
- enhancing school safety by making it more difficult to conceal weapons or contraband
- enhancing school safety by helping teachers and administrators identify individuals who are not enrolled in the school when they encounter them on school grounds
- enhancing school safety by prohibiting gang colors and paraphernalia
- reducing the cost of school clothing
- providing an educational environment where financial disparities between students, as reflected in clothing, are minimized
- creating a greater sense of community and school pride among the students
- instilling discipline in students
- helping students and parents/legal guardians to avoid peer pressure
- helping prepare students for further roles in the workplace
- creating an atmosphere reflecting seriousness of purpose about education

### **General guidelines**

- Clothing shall not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process as determined by the administration.
- Hair styles or hair colors shall not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process as determined by the administration.
- Garments, jewelry or articles of clothing shall not display emblems related to alcohol, illegal or abusive substances, gangs, violence, sex or obscenities.
- Tops and bottoms deemed as distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted. Garments shall assure modesty when the student is seated or engaged in school activities.
- No denim jeans, sweat pants, running shorts, spandex or cargo pants are permitted.
- Tights, leggings, jeggings or jegging-style pants cannot be worn as bottoms.
- Shirts and blouses must cover shoulders and torso, be neither too tight nor too loose as to be revealing or pose a safety hazard and must be tucked in.
- Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to one's self or others is not allowed. This includes heavy chains not made as jewelry, fishhooks, multiple finger rings (rings welded together resembling brass knuckles or rings that can be used as a weapon), studded/spiked bracelets or collars, nose/lip to ear chains, etc. will not be allowed.
- Body piercing and/or body art that is disruptive to the order of the school or is a distraction to the learning environment will not be allowed.
- Students may not wear large pendants, large medallions or large dangling earrings or any other distracting or unsafe jewelry. School administrators will make determination based on grade levels (primary, elementary, middle school, high school).

### Shirts, vests, sweaters and sweatshirts (Tops)

For the purpose of this policy, shirts, vests, sweaters and sweatshirts are referred to as tops. To that end, tops may be solid white or approved solid colors.

- Students shall wear plain shirts with a collar.
- Shirts may have school-approved logos.
- Shirts may not exceed one size larger than necessary as determined by the school administrator.
- Shirts must be tucked in. Exceptions may be made for preschool and kindergarten students as needed by administration.
- White or approved colored t-shirts or turtle neck shirts (long or short sleeve) may be worn under uniform shirts.

- Students may wear vests, sweaters or unhooded sweatshirts that allow the collar to be exposed over school uniforms. The vest, sweater or sweatshirts shall be solid white, school approved colors or coordinate with school colors (i.e. argyle) and may not exceed one size larger or smaller than necessary as determined by the school administrator.
- School t-shirts can be worn on designated dress down days, field days and special field trips as determined by the school administrator.

Pants, skirts, skorts, jumpers, capri length pants and shorts (bottoms)

For purposes of this document pants, skirts, skorts, jumpers, capri pants and shorts are referred to as bottoms. To that end, bottoms must be solid khaki, black, or navy. Denim jeans are not permitted. Principals may make exceptions for special field trips.

- Bottoms must be free of graphics and embroidery. With the exception of small labels, bottoms may not have insignias, words or pictures.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers will be no shorter than 2 ½” above the knee when standing.
- Cargo-style pants or shorts are not permitted.
- Clothing shall not exceed one size larger than necessary as determined by the school administrator.
- Baggy or sagging pants or shorts are not permitted.
- "Low rise" clothing is not permitted.
- Bottoms (excluding jumpers) shall be worn at the natural waistline and properly fitted to prevent sagging.
- Belts shall be worn in pants, skirts, skorts or shorts that have belt loops. Exceptions may be made for preschool and kindergarten students as needed by administration. Belts must be buckled and tucked in loops. Belt buckles must not be oversized, computerized or have any writing that is considered offensive.

Shoes, sneakers and boots (footwear)

- Footwear shall be worn at all times, and, as needed, shoes will conform to special requirements, i.e., PE class, ROTC, science labs, culinary arts, etc.
- Laces on shoes or sneakers shall match the shoe color and be tied.
- Flip flops, “croc” style rubber or plastic shoes, slippers, shoes without heel straps, stiletto heeled shoes are not permitted.
- “Heelies” styled shoes with wheels in the soles are not permitted.

### Coats and jackets

Coats and jackets may not be more than one size larger than necessary. Effective July 1, 2012, coats that present a distraction as determined by the school administration (e.g. character, large logos, advertisements) will be banned.

### Other clothing items and accessories

- Any adornment that could be perceived as, or used as, a weapon such as chains, spikes, etc., is not permitted.
- Gang-related clothing, accessories, symbols or intimidating items of dress, as maybe identified by local law enforcement agencies, are not permitted.
- Head coverings of any kind including, but not limited to, hats, caps, bandanas, curlers, masks, visors, kerchiefs, athletic sweatbands, earmuffs, sunglasses and hoods are not permitted. Head coverings will not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck or kept in classroom during regular school hours. Exemptions can be made by the school administration for inclement weather. If there is a medical reason for a student to wear one of the above listed items, see the section entitled exemption procedures.

### **Other Uniform Requirements**

Students shall dress according to the uniform standards at all times when school is in session. Students who are taking classes that require a special dress code, such as ROTC or career and technical education internships, may wear that uniform to other classes. Principals may make exceptions to the uniform policy for special events, such as picture day, and may allow a different standard for athletic teams or other school clubs or activities. Clothing designated for school athletic events, i.e., cheerleader outfit, that does not meet the above guidelines will not be worn during the instructional day unless appropriate additional garments are worn with the outfit.

### **Enforcement**

First offense -Students will be informed that they have violated the dress code policy. They will be given an opportunity to change into acceptable clothing by using available clothes at school or by calling a parent/legal guardian to bring clothes. If the violation is corrected within a reasonable time, a warning will be issued. If neither of these options is used, students may be placed in an alternative setting, if available, for the remainder of the day.

Second offense-A second infraction of the policy will be ruled as a second dress code violation. Disciplinary actions may include a parent/legal guardian conference and disciplinary actions consistent with a level 1 offense (detention, in-school suspension).

Third offense - A third infraction of the dress code will be considered as defiance and categorized as a Level 2 offense “refusal to obey” as outlined in the Colleton County School District Code of Student Conduct. Students may be subject to the consequences outlined therein, including out-of-school suspension. Disciplinary action may vary when a student has a record of other conduct violations during a current school year.

Additional offenses – Additional offenses will be categorized as refusal to obey which is a Level 2 offense as outlined in the Colleton County School District Code of Student Conduct. Student may be subject to the consequences outlined therein, including out-of-school suspension. Disciplinary action may vary when a student has a record of other conduct violations during a current school year.

Students who do not comply with the dress code may be excluded from participating in certain extracurricular school programs. Copies of the dress code will be made available to students and parents/legal guardians.

### **Administrative determination**

In all cases of questionable dress code violations, the principal has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a particular style or garment violates this policy. If the principal determines that a student has violated the policy, the student will receive the appropriate disciplinary consequence.

### **Uniform exemption**

#### Exemption procedures

Reasonable consideration will be made for those students who, because of medical reasons, request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance.

- The waiver request will be submitted to the principal in writing from the parent/legal guardian and approved or disapproved by the principal and/or his/her designee for a specified period of time.
- In considering a waiver request, the principal and/or his/her designee will review documentation provided by medical officials.

#### Transfer students

New students to the school will be given a two-week grace period from enrollment to obtain and wear the proper school uniforms.

