

Policy

DRESS AND GROOMING

The schools of the Oakland School District are workplaces for the students of this district. Just as adults dress appropriately for their work environments, students need to dress appropriately for school. School dress should reflect a seriousness of purpose, an appreciation of the importance of health and safety, respect for oneself and others, and an understanding that the board maintains high expectations for student achievement.

The Oakland Board of Education, therefore, establishes the following guidelines for student dress in school and urges all parents to assist in providing our students with an academic environment that is safe, conducive to learning, and supportive of high achievement.

District Guidelines for Student Dress

- A. All attire should be neat, clean, reflect modesty, and be appropriate for a school environment;
- B. Apparel shall not be sheer, brief, low cut or revealing so as to be embarrassing, distracting, or indecent;
- C. Shorts or short-like apparel may be worn during hot weather, but they must be neatly hemmed and long enough to ensure modesty;
- D. Exposure of undergarments is unacceptable. Cutoffs or frayed bottoms are not permitted, and shorts with distracting or suggestive words/images on them are not acceptable for school. Neither are lycra/spandex shorts permitted in school;
- E. Shirts with excessively low cut arm holes are not to be worn. Short shirts which leave the stomach area/midriff exposed are unsafe and not acceptable in school. Also, halter tops and spaghetti strap tops are not permitted;
- F. Footwear is required; however, beach thongs or flip flops are unsafe in a school environment and are not permitted;
- G. Hats, caps, or other headwear shall not be worn inside the school building;
- H. Unless required for a medical reason, sunglasses may not be worn during school;
- I. Graphics that are suggestively obscene or promote/depict an illegal substance on any garment are prohibited (e.g., alcohol, drugs, lewdness, profanity).

The building administrator is responsible for enforcing the dress code. Each principal shall enforce school regulations prohibiting pupil dress or grooming practices that:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the pupil himself or herself or to others in the school;
- B. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. Prevent the pupil from achieving his or her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

The principal or his or her designee shall have discretion in determining dress code violations.

Appropriate consequences will be issued for violation. Repeat offenders will result in parental notification and possible exclusion from school. A parent/guardian may be contacted to bring appropriate attire to school before a student is permitted to return to class.

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Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A.11-1 General mandatory powers and duties

Cross References: *5131 Conduct and discipline
 *5142 Student Safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.