

School Attire

The Board of Education has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire can contribute to a positive learning environment in the following manner:

- (1) Reducing distraction and minimizing disruption in the classroom;
- (2) Providing an environment where students can focus on learning;
- (3) Creating an atmosphere reflecting the seriousness of purpose about education;
- (4) Reflecting a level of respect one has for oneself, one's peers and respect for one's school;
- (5) Creating a greater sense of community amongst the students; and
- (6) Preparing students for future roles as responsible members of the community.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their children's' dress conforms to the requirements set forth below. The health, safety, and education of the child must be the concern of every parent/legal guardian. It is the recommendation of professional school personnel that parents/guardians hold their children to the highest standards in regard to school attire.

Mandatory Dress Code Policy, Elementary and Middle Schools: The following Dress Code Policy is mandatory for all elementary and middle school students. The purpose of this policy is to further the important educational interests identified above.

1. BOYS:

- a. Pants or shorts in solid navy blue, white, gray, black or khaki; worn completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above the knee.
- b. Tops in solid blue, white, gray, black or khaki; button down, pullover, or turtleneck style with long or short sleeves and a collar.

2. GIRLS:

- a. Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses, or jumpers in solid navy blue, white, gray, black or khaki; worn completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above knee. Note: Leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings may only be worn under shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses or jumpers.
- b. Tops in solid blue, white, gray, black or khaki; button down, pullover, or turtleneck style with long or short sleeves and a collar; worn completely covering undergarments, cleavage and midriffs.

3. ALL STUDENTS:

- a. Optional solid blue, white, gray, black or khaki sweaters, vests, suit jackets or fleece may be worn over a dress code top.
- b. Optional solid white, gray, black or khaki denim pants may be worn.
- c. Shoes or sneakers must be worn at all times. Laces on shoes or sneakers must be tied. Sandals, clogs, flip-flops, heels or bare feet are not permitted. All shoes must have backs.
- d. Gym Day Attire (Boys and Girls): Elementary school students may wear sweats to school on scheduled gym day. Sweats must be solid navy blue, white, gray, black or khaki. Middle school students must bring gym clothing to change into for physical education classes.

School Attire, continued

4. **RESTRICTIONS:** Students are **not** permitted to wear the following during the school day:
- Blue jeans of any kind.
 - Leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings unless worn under skirts, shorts, skorts or jumpers.
 - Skirts, shorts, skorts, dresses, or jumpers worn more than three inches above the knee.
 - Pants worn at a length which is dangerous to themselves or others.
 - Hooded shirts or sweatshirts.
 - Clothes which are torn, ripped, ragged or have holes.
 - Clothes worn to expose midriffs, cleavage, or undergarments.
 - Clothing which displays words, pictures or symbols that advocate or depict profanity, violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, hate groups or gang affiliation.
 - Clothing that is distracting to the educational process.
 - Outer coats of any kind.
 - Any article of clothing that covers any part of the face and/or head including but not limited to hats, visors, earmuffs, headbands, do-rags, bandannas, curlers, goggles, and sunglasses.
 - Footwear which is unsafe or a health hazard including but not limited to flip-flops, sandals, clogs, heels and all open-toed shoes.
 - Clothing or items indicating gang affiliation.

Mandatory Dress Code Policy, High Schools: The following Dress Code Policy is mandatory for all high school students. The purpose of this policy is to further the important educational interests identified above.

1. BOYS:

- Pants or shorts in solid navy blue, white, gray, black or khaki; worn completely covering undergarments and worn no more than 3 inches above knee.
- Tops in any color; button down, pullover, or turtleneck style with sleeves (long or short) and a collar.

2. GIRLS:

- Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses, or jumpers in solid navy blue, white, gray, black or khaki; worn completely covering undergarments no more than 3 inches above knee.
Note: Leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings may only be worn under shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses or jumpers.
- Tops in any color; button down, pullover, or turtleneck style with long or short sleeves and a collar; worn completely covering undergarments, cleavage and midriffs.

3. ALL STUDENTS:

- Optional solid colored sweaters, vests, suit jackets or fleece may be worn over a dress code top.
- Optional solid white, gray, black or khaki denim pants may be worn.
- Shoes or sneakers must be worn at all times. Laces on shoes or sneakers must be tied. Sandals, clogs, flip-flops, heels or bare feet are not permitted. All shoes must have backs.

School Attire, continued

- 4. RESTRICTIONS:** Students are **not** permitted to wear the following during the school day:
- a. Blue jeans of any kind.
 - b. Leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings unless worn under skirts, shorts, skorts or jumpers.
 - c. Skirts, shorts, skorts, dresses, or jumpers worn more than three inches above the knee.
 - d. Pants worn at a length which is dangerous to themselves or others.
 - e. Hooded shirts or sweatshirts.
 - f. Clothes which are torn, ripped, ragged or have holes.
 - g. Clothes worn to expose midriffs, cleavage, or undergarments.
 - h. Clothing which displays words, pictures or symbols that advocate or depict profanity, violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, hate groups or gang affiliation.
 - i. Clothing that is distracting to the educational process.
 - j. Outer coats of any kind.
 - k. Any article of clothing that covers any part of the face and/or head including but not limited to hats, visors, earmuffs, headbands, do-rags, bandannas, curlers, goggles, and sunglasses;
 - l. Footwear which is unsafe or a health hazard including but not limited to flip-flops, sandals, clogs, heels and all open-toed shoes;
 - m. Clothing or items indicating gang affiliation.

Adherence to the B.O.E. Dress Code Policy (July 2005):

First Offense: Contact with parent; written warning; removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class.

Second Offense: Contact with parent; Detention*.

Third Offense: Contact with parent; In-school Suspension.

Fourth and Subsequent Offense: Contact with parent; Suspension (1 day), and/or Administrative investigation of misbehavior; appropriate application of Waterbury Board of Education Discipline Policy for specific infraction(s).

Religious, Disability and Health Accommodations: Where the bona fide religious beliefs, disability, or health needs of a student conflict with the school attire policy, the schools will provide reasonable accommodation. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify their school principal or team in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

Clothing Assistance: It is the policy of the Board of Education that no student will be denied an education due to bona fide financial inability to obtain clothing that complies with the School Attire Policy. Any student for whom compliance with the school attire policy poses a bona fide financial burden, may submit a written request for clothing assistance to their school principal specifying the clothing needed together with a statement of financial need. School principals will contact central office with recommendations to address the written request from families with financial need.

School Attire, continued

Accommodation of Free Expression: An item of approved clothing containing an expressive message is permitted. Expressive items are prohibited if, in the reasonable judgment of school officials, they tend to disrupt or interfere with educational interests.

Administrative Review: Any student who believes that their school has not reasonably accommodated his or her bona fide religious, health or financial needs or right of free expression, may submit a written request for review to the Waterbury Board of Education. The Board of Education, or its designee, will review the matter and respond in writing to the student's concern.

Compliance: School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with school attire requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the School Attire Policy, discipline is appropriate. See "Procedures for Disciplinary Action".

