

STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students who attend Loudoun County Public Schools are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. A student's attire should facilitate the participation in learning as well as the health and safety of students. This policy is intended to provide guidance for students, staff and parents.

A. Appropriate Student Attire, Grooming, or Accessories or Other Objects. Students must wear clothing that is appropriate to a K-12 educational environment and that **does not distract others, interfere with the instructional programs or otherwise** cause a substantial disruption **or is reasonably likely to cause a substantial disruption based upon articulable facts** that includes the following attire:

1. Clothing **that covers** the midriff.
2. Tops with straps greater than one inch wide.
3. Undergarments and **clothing that covers private areas.**
4. Clothing that does not reveal undergarments and/or private areas.
5. Clothing suitable for all scheduled classroom activities where unique hazards exist.
6. Clothing that is required in specialized courses, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.
7. Clothing that includes head covering if worn for religious purposes, as a matter of safety, medical condition, or in connection with a school-sponsored program, activity, or event.
8. **Clothing or accessories that allow students'** faces **to** be clearly visible by other students and staff, as a reasonable measure of safety and security.
9. Clothing that is **free from** profanity or images that depict, advertise or advocate illegal, violent or lewd conduct, the unlawful possession or use of weapons, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, other controlled substances.
10. Clothing and/or head coverings free from gang related or associated symbols, such as words or drawings that could pose a reasonable threat to the health or safety of any other student or staff.

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11. Clothing or other accessories or objects free from language, slogans, symbols, icons or images that are highly offensive or threatening to others and impede or distract from the Board's mission of instilling values necessary or appropriate for polite civil discourse or political expression in a school context, social tolerance, nondiscrimination, self-awareness and sensitivity to the feeling of others even if such does not result in a reasonable fear of immediate disruption. An essential Board mission is to teach students of different races, creeds and color to engage each other in civil terms rather than in terms highly offensive or threatening to others. For example, displays of certain symbols such as Confederate or Swastika images are perceived by many as racially hostile, are associated with racial prejudice, have been a source for conflict among students, and could result in hatred, ill will, and emotional trauma that are all inappropriate in the school context.

B. Responsibilities

1. Student Responsibility. Students are responsible for complying with the division dress code during school hours and school sponsored activities. Students are permitted to wear any religiously and ethnically specific or significant head covering or hairstyle, including hijabs, yarmulkes, headwraps, braids, locs, and cornrows.

2. Staff Responsibility. Staff are responsible for communicating and equitably enforcing the division dress code during school hours and school-sponsored activities. Staff must maintain gender neutrality by holding all students to the same set of rules and standards regardless of gender.

3. Parent Responsibility. Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring student compliance with the division dress code. Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal or principal's designee.

C. Enforcement

1. Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the school administration.

2. Enforcement must be equitable, and gender neutral in implementation. Enforcement must not have a disparate impact on students of a particular gender. Staff members are prohibited from enforcing the dress or grooming code by direct physical contact with a student or a student's attire.

3. Enforcement must be reasonably discreet. Staff members are prohibited from requiring a student to undress in front of any individual, including staff, to comply with the dress code.

91 4. Enforcement should include options for reasonable remediation of the
92 infraction that demonstrates respect and where possible, minimizes loss of
93 instructional time.

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95 5. Enforcement may include disciplinary actions that are consistent with
96 other discipline policies and sufficiently escalatory to encourage compliance.

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98 D. Appeals. In accordance with policy ~~§8-26~~ **8230** parents or guardians may appeal a
99 disciplinary action by notifying the office of the appropriate person to whom the appeal is
100 made.

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102 [Former Policy 8-33]

103 Adopted: 8/11/71

104 Revised: 6/22/93, 12/13/11, 6/27/17

105 Current Revision: 8/8/17

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108 Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia § [22.1-79.2](#)