

(Grades 6-12)

The purpose for implementing this student dress code policy for all students in grades 6 through 12 is to strengthen the learning environment for classroom instruction and academic performance; prevent disruption to the educational process; prevent distraction to students, staff and the educational process; facilitate learning; increase the atmosphere for school pride and personal appearance and enhance the image of students and the schools in the Austintown community.

This dress code policy shall be in effect during the regular school year and during any summer educational programming.

As discussed further below, parents who believe that their child cannot comply with the dress code because of religious beliefs or religious dress must submit a written request for an exemption from the policy along with an explanation of how the religious belief/religion prevents compliance with the policy to the school principal at least 24 hours in advance where practicable.

General

Attire that is not in compliance with this dress code policy is not permitted. In addition to the clothing items expressly prohibited under this policy, principals and the school administration have discretion to address any attire that is offensive, degrading, vulgar, contrary to the educational mission of the school, that disrupts the learning environment or infringes upon the rights of others.

All clothing must be of appropriate size and fit neatly. Any clothing that is too tight revealing or saggy/baggy, including, but not limited to, low necklines, midriff tops and form-filling tops or bottoms is not permitted.

Hair

1. Hair color, including highlights, hair tinsel, and hair feathers (of any type) must be within the spectrum of color that hair grows naturally such as shades of blonde, black, auburn/red and brunette. (Metallic and non-natural shades of hair color are not permitted. Hair crystals, of any color, are not permitted.)
2. Hair styles which are disruptive/distracting to the educational process or pose a safety hazard are not permitted.
3. Hair must not be worn covering the eyes or in a way which otherwise obstructs the natural vision of student or staff members.
4. Eyebrows are not permitted to be shaved.

Jewelry and Accessories

1. Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not to be worn to school. This includes, but is not limited to, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, spiked dog

collars, chained wallets, two or three finger rings that are connected and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist.

2. Chains and sharp objects such as spikes are not allowed on clothing or book bags.
3. No head coverings are permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, wave caps, sweatbands, headbands, skull caps, sunglasses, headsets or any other head covering. Combs, rakes or picks should not be worn in the hair. Exception requests, including those based upon religious beliefs, must be made in writing to the school principal along with an explanation of how the religious belief/religion prevents compliance with the ban on head coverings at least 24 hours in advance where practicable.
4. Body piercing (other than permissible types of ear piercing) and displaying jewelry in areas such as the eyebrows, lips and tongue are not permitted.
5. Stretching of the mouth/lips/and/or earlobe as well as the following types of earrings, ear/body jewelry and ear/body piercing are not permitted: flesh tunnels, flesh plugs, ear/lip stretchers, ear/lip expanders, ear/lip stretchers and similar ear/lip stretching devices or jewelry.

Gang-Affiliated Attire/Accessories

A gang, as defined in this policy means any organization, association or group of three or more which has a unique name or identifiable signs, symbols or marks, and whose members individually or collectively engage in criminal or violent behavior to persons or property, or who create an unreasonable and substantial disruption or risk of disruption of a class, activity, program or other function of a school.

Any gang attire, symbols, signs or other things which are evidence of membership in, or affiliation with, recruitment or desire to be affiliated with any gang are prohibited. Gang related attire/accessories include but are not limited to the following:

1. Any article of clothing bearing gang symbols, names, initials, insignia or anything else that signals gang affiliation;
2. students rolling up one pant leg;
3. long bulky chains and necklaces, gang styled belt buckles, large oversized pendants on necklaces and chains and
4. draping articles of clothing, towels or other objects out of pant pockets or over the shoulder or neck area.

Gang-Affiliated Attire/Accessories

As gang styles and clothing continually evolve and change, additional styles and apparel may be considered gang-affiliated, as identified in consultation with school officials and law enforcement authorities.

Tops

The following tops are permitted: polo-style shirts with a collar, oxford shirts with a collar, dress shirts with a collar, turtlenecks, mock turtlenecks and sweaters, including crew neck, V-neck, full length zipper, half-zipper pullover, cowl, scoop, boat neck, sweater vest and cardigan.

Hooded tops (“Hoodies”) or shirts/jackets with full/reach through front pockets are strictly prohibited.

No attire that is vulgar offensive, degrading, sexually revealing, contrary to the mission of the school or disruptive to the learning environment or an infringement on the rights of others is permitted.

Bottoms

The following bottoms are permitted for campus student wear: denim jeans, khaki pants, cargo pants, corduroy pants, dress pants and shorts which are no shorter than two inches from the top of the knee. In addition to these choices, capri pants, skirts, skorts, dresses and jumpers are also permitted. The hemline on skirts, skorts, dresses and jumpers must be no shorter than two inches from the top of the knee.

Students are not permitted to wear pajama bottoms, pajama bottom-style pants, yoga pants, athletic style pants and shorts or sweatpants/jogging pants and sweat shorts, which includes fleece, cotton, nylon, spandex and velour. Additionally, bottoms of any style made with stretch knits, flannel, fleece, velour or spandex are not permitted. Bottoms must be worn in a manner so as not to cause disruption to the educational environment.

A manufacturer’s logo/emblem is permitted anywhere on the bottoms.

Students are not required to wear a belt with bottoms. All bottoms must be worn at the waist. The waist is defined as the area between the bottom of the rib cage and top of the hip bone. Wearing bottoms which expose skin or undergarments or wearing oversize/draping baggy style pants to create a look is strictly prohibited.

When wearing approved shorts, the hemline must be no shorter than two inches above the top of the knee. All shorts must be worn at the waist. The waist is defined as the area between the bottom of the rib cage and top of the hip bone. Wearing shorts below the waist area which expose skin in the waist/midriff or pelvic area or undergarments or wearing oversize/draping baggy style shorts to create a look is strictly prohibited.

All skirts and skorts must be worn at the waist. The waist is defined as the area between the bottom of the rib cage and top of the hip bone. All skirts, skorts and dresses must have a finished hem. All dresses must have sleeves and all jumpers must be worn with an approved top.

Footwear

Students are permitted to wear any style of footwear, made of canvas, plastic, rubber, leather, fake/faux leather or leather-like synthetic compound with either a rubber sole or leather sole, which includes: dress shoes, casual shoes, athletic shoes, boots and closed-toe sandals. Footwear may have a back or be in nature. Boots may extend no higher than the bottom of the knee.

"Open-toe" footwear is strictly prohibited. Flip flops of any kind (leather, transparent plastic, rubber, wood, etc.) are strictly prohibited. Flip flops are defined as flat and backless consisting of a flat sole held loosely on the foot by a Y-shaped or V-shaped strap, like a thin thong, that passes between the first (big) and second toes and around either side of the foot. Shower shoes are strictly prohibited. Shower shoes are defined as those meant to be used near pools, bathrooms, or other wet places, and are made of plastic or rubber.

Shoes with wheels ("heelies") are strictly prohibited.

Dress Code Exceptions

Exceptions to the dress code shall include the following:

- 1 Students participating in a nationally recognized youth organization (such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts) may wear their uniforms on those days such organizations have a scheduled function.
2. Other exceptions are made only upon the prior approval (with at least 24 hours advance approval where practicable) of the building principal. Such exception requests must be made in writing at least 24 hours in advance where practicable and must include a reason/explanation for the request.

Religious Exemptions

Requests for exemptions from the dress code based upon one's religion or religious beliefs, including an explanation of why the religion/religious belief prevents compliance with the dress code, must be made at least 24 hours in advance where practicable in writing to the principal.

Dress Code Violation

This dress code policy shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct and any other student handbooks or discipline policies. Principals are responsible for ensuring that the dress code policy is implemented and enforced.

Students who violate this dress code policy shall generally be progressively disciplined unless circumstances warrant otherwise. Any time a student violates the dress code policy, he/she will be required to promptly change into alternative acceptable clothing or otherwise promptly correct the

violation. Students who cannot promptly correct the dress code violation or who refuse to do so may be sent to in school restriction or home at the discretion of school administration.

Additionally, a student's first dress code violation will result in a warning being issued to the student with the student's parents/guardians being notified of the warning unless circumstances warrant more severe discipline.

Repeated violations may result in other disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct, which may include, but not be limited to, detention, in school restriction, suspension and/or expulsion depending on the circumstances.

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