

STUDENT APPEARANCE, DRESS AND UNIFORM CODE

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the School District of Volusia County primarily rests with parents and the students. Some student apparel, however, may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate to wear in other settings. To assist parents and students in making appropriate fashion and grooming decisions for school, the School Board has established the following minimal guidelines for the appearance and dress of students.

The standards of appearance for students shall ensure that the students are clean, neat, and properly dressed. They shall observe modes of dress and standards of personal grooming which are appropriate for the academic environment.

It is the responsibility of the principal to see that the dress appearance of any student shall not be extreme, to the point of creating a disturbance, or be hazardous to the student and/or others, or school property, whether or not the specific case is covered by the information below. The principal or principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel/appearance conforms to the dress code. If a student enters the district after the start of the school year, the student will have a grace period of five (5) school days before being required to fully comply with this dress code.

The Board finds that school uniforms promote the safety and welfare of students and employees. The Board further finds that uniforms promote an environment that enhances learning and safety; encourages the expression of student individuality through personality and achievements rather than outward or material appearance; and creates a sense of school pride and community.

II. GENERAL DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS.

The following dress code applies to students who are exempt from the school uniform requirement set forth in this policy and to all students while attending school-sponsored activities after the regular school day.

- A. *Unacceptable attire.* A student may not wear clothing (including bandanas), jewelry (including body piercing jewelry), buttons, haircuts, tattoos, or other attire or marking which are offensive, suggestive, disruptive or indecent, such as:
1. clothing associated with gangs.
 2. clothing encouraging or promoting the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol or violence.
 3. clothing associated with the discrimination on the basis of age, color, handicap, national origin, marital status, race, religion or sex.

4. clothing exposing the torso or upper thighs, such as see-through garments, mini-skirts or mini-dresses, halters, backless shirts or dresses, tube tops or tank tops without over-blouses or shirts, spaghetti strap garments without over-blouses, bare midriff outfits, or shirts or blouses tied at the midriff.
5. clothing not properly fastened or with tears.
6. clothing or outer garments traditionally designed as undergarments, such as boxer shorts, underwear, tights, hosiery and sleepwear.
7. clothing or footwear that is construed by the principal, or designee, as hazardous or dangerous to the health or safety of the student or others or which might reasonably lead the principal or designee to forecast substantial disruption of, or material interference with school activities.

B. General Dress Code Policy Requirements

1. Appropriate sizes - Garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable to the build and stature of the student.
2. Upper garments – Upper garments must be long enough to clearly overlap the beltline or stay tucked in during the course of normal movement during the day.
3. Lower garments – Lower garments with visible belt loops shall be worn with a belt that is properly fastened. Exceptions will be allowed for students in grades K – 5 and in individual cases based upon the discretion of the principal or designee. The waistband of pants, shorts or skirts must be worn and secured between the hips and the waist. Undergarments and the buttocks must remain entirely covered even while seated. Jumpers, skirts and shorts must be at least mid-thigh or below in length.
4. Head - No hats, caps, visors, hoods, bandanas, sunglasses or other head gear may be worn inside an enclosed school building except with administrative permission (i.e. medical necessity, religious, school related events)
5. Shoes/Footwear - All students shall wear shoes/footwear. Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. Students must wear athletic shoes in all physical education classes.
6. Outerwear – Coats, jackets, sweaters and other appropriate outer garments when necessary due to weather conditions. When outer garments with hood are worn, the hoods must be removed from the head while in school buildings. The outer garments must be of the appropriate size and shall not be overly baggy or violate any provisions of the dress code.

C. Violation of dress code requirements.

Violation of paragraph II shall be deemed a Level I dress code violation as provided in policy 208.

III. SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS.

Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, there is hereby established a school uniform requirement that applies to all student enrolled in grades K-12 during the regular school day. These uniform requirements shall be supplemental to those specified in paragraph I.

A. Basic Standardized Clothing

1. The basic uniform clothing for students in grades K-12 shall consist of a long or short-sleeved: 1) white collared, knit polo-style shirt or 2) white collared oxford style button down shirt; and navy blue, black or khaki (tan) pair of long pants, shorts, capris, skirt, skort or jumper. Blue or black denim long pants are also acceptable. A small logo is acceptable. The superintendent may designate up to two additional basic uniform colors.
2. In addition to the basic uniform, a principal may designate up to two additional school colors for the collared shirt. Colored trim, stripes or decorations will not be allowed. A small logo is acceptable.
3. Pants, shorts, capris, skirts, skorts, and jumpers must be a solid color with no stripes, decorations or embroidery. A small logo is acceptable.
4. Shoes/footwear –Elementary and middle school shoes/footwear shall be closed toe and heel, so as to protect the entire foot. In addition to closed toe shoes, high school students may wear sandals provided they do not interfere with the safety and welfare of the student.

B. Alternatives.

1. A principal may designate up to one (1) day per week to suspend paragraph III for school events or other activities. In addition, a principal may designate up to four (4) weeks each school year to suspend paragraph III for school events or other activities.
2. Student enrolled in a career academy or Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program may wear the approved uniform of that program. If that academy or program does not have an approved uniform, the requirements of paragraph III of this policy shall apply.

C. Exceptions

A principal, or designee, may approve an exception to the uniform dress code shall be permitted when:

1. A student wears a button, armband or other accouterment to exercise right of free speech guaranteed by the United States and Florida Constitutions, unless the button, armband or other accouterment signifies or is related to gangs, gang membership or gang activity, or would otherwise violate this policy.

2. A student wears a costume or special clothing necessary to a school play or other school-sponsored activity as permitted by the principal.
3. The wearing of clothing in compliance with the uniform dress code violates a sincerely held religious belief of the student. The parent and/or guardian of the student shall submit the request in writing and set forth the religious issue and exemption request.
4. A parent/guardian request for a reasonable accommodation to address a student's disability or medical necessity.

D. Financial Considerations/Assistance.

1. The provision of clothing to comply with this policy rests solely with the parent and/or guardian of each student. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as obligating the board, or any school, to subsidize or pay for said clothing.
2. Each principal and/or school advisory council (SAC) may develop procedures to inform students and parents of assistance and/or donation opportunities from third parties because of a financial hardship associated with compliance with this policy.

E. Violation of school uniform requirements.

Violation of paragraph III shall be deemed a Level I offense under policy 208. For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning without a referral and the parent/guardian shall be contacted. For a second offense, a referral shall be issued and a Level I response, other than in-school suspension, shall be issued. For a third offense, in-school suspension, or other Level I response, may be issued. A violation of the school uniform requirements of paragraph III shall not result in out-of-school suspension. This progressive disciplinary process shall reset each school year.

Legal Authority:

Sections 1001.41(1) 7 (2), 1001.42(25), Florida Statutes

Laws Implemented:

Sections 1001.41(1), 1006.07, 1006.15, Florida Statutes

History:

(Adopted – June 28, 2011)

(Revised – May 8, 2012; March 29, 2016; February 28, 2017)

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