

District Policy

5511- DRESS AND GROOMING

Section: Pupils

Date Created: October, 2000

Date Edited: November, 2004

The Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of **dress** and grooming is a manifestation of the pupil's personal style and individual preferences. The Board will impose its judgment on pupils and parents or legal guardians only when a pupil's **dress** and grooming affect the educational program of the schools.

Students are expected to come to school well groomed, neat and appropriately **dressed**. Pupils may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that present a health or safety hazard to the individual pupil or to others; materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program; cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or prevent the pupil from achieving his or her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The Board of Education prohibits pupils from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the pupil has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law enforcement agency will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

The building principal shall determine whether the **dress** or grooming of pupils comes within these prohibitions.

Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

The Superintendent shall, on consultation with staff members, pupils, and parents or legal guardians, prepare a **dress code** that imposes only minimum and necessary limitations on a pupil's taste and individuality.

Dress Standards

The school's purpose in establishing a **dress** standard is to promote a positive attitude about learning and about one's self image, as well as to eliminate distractions to the educative process. The **dress** standards are as follows:

1. Tank tops for boys and girls are unacceptable;
2. Outerwear such as coats or hats are not to be worn to classes;
3. No midriffs or cut-off shirts are to be worn at any time;

4. Shirts advertising alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or those with obscene or questionable printing on them are not permitted;
5. Shorts and skorts are permitted as school attire from May 1st to October 1st. Weather permitting, administrative prerogative may take precedent;
6. Excessive short skirts are not permitted;
7. Improper wearing of clothing is not permitted.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1, 18A:11-7, 18A:11-8, 18A:11-9

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