

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Loudoun County Public Schools' student dress code supports equitable educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes and that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, color, national origin, caste, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, disability, age, or genetic information.

The student dress code supports our goal of inspiring students to learn while leaving primary decisions around student clothing and style to students and their parents or guardians. Our expectation is that parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring student compliance with the school's dress code, and students are responsible for knowing the student dress code and for complying during school hours and school activities.

### A. Values

Our values are:

1. All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
2. A student's choice of clothing should not be blamed as a distraction to the learning environment, apart from specific violations of the dress code detailed in this policy.
3. Student dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
4. School staff should be trained and able to use student/body-positive language to explain the code and to address code violations.
5. Teachers should focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.
6. Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized whenever possible.

### B. Appropriate Student Attire

1. Students must wear:

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- a. a shirt;
  - b. a bottom: pants, sweatpants, shorts, skirt, dress, or leggings;
  - c. shoes; and
  - d. clothing required by specialized courses or activities, such as sports uniforms or safety gear. Students must dress appropriately for gym class, wearing clothing and footwear that permits for full and safe participation in all activities.
2. Students may wear:
- a. hats, including religious headwear;
  - b. hoodie sweatshirts (hoods must be lowered during instructional time);
  - c. fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, and “skinny jeans”;
  - d. pajama pants and pajama shirts;
  - e. ripped jeans, as long as underwear is not exposed;
  - f. shirts with straps;
  - g. athletic attire;
  - h. clothing with commercial or athletic logos; and
  - i. any religiously or ethnically specific or significant clothing, head covering, or hairstyle, including hijabs, yarmulkes, headwraps, braids, locs, and cornrows.
3. Clothing and accessories in violation of dress code are those that:
- a. depict or promote illegal, violent, or lewd conduct;
  - b. depict or promote the unlawful possession or use of weapons, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other controlled

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- substances;
- c. expose private parts;
- d. expose underwear (however, visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation);
- e. are helmets or headgear that obscures the face (except as a religious observance or if medically necessary);
- f. are bathing suits;
- g. include language, slogans, profanity, symbols, icons, or images that are reasonably foreseeable to cause a material and substantial disruption or invade the rights of others and that amount to hate speech, are highly offensive or threatening to others, or 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. 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.

### C. Dress Code Enforcement and Responsibilities

1. Staff are responsible for communicating and equitably enforcing the division dress code during school hours and school-sponsored activities. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a viewpoint neutral manner using the requirements below. Discussion about dress code violations shall be held privately and maintain the dignity of the student.

- a. Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined above. Enforcement should provide options for reasonable remediation of the infraction that demonstrates respect and minimizes loss of instructional time.

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- b. No student should be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement because of their gender or any other protected class such as race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.
- c. Enforcement must be reasonably discreet. Students should not be shamed or required to undress or display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. “Shaming” includes, but is not limited to: kneeling or bending over to check attire fit; measuring straps or skirt length; asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others; calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others; accusing students of “distracting” other students with their clothing.
- d. Enforcement may include disciplinary actions that are consistent with other discipline policies and sufficiently escalatory to encourage compliance, however, violations of the dress code should generally be treated as minor infractions unless repeated or egregious in nature (e.g. streaking, hate speech).

2. Students are responsible for complying with the division dress code during school hours and school sponsored activities. Students who feel they have been subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact the Office of School Administration.

3. Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring student compliance with the dress code. Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodation not otherwise covered in this policy should contact the school principal or principal’s designee.

[Former Policy 8-33]

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

Cross Ref: Policy [8215](#) In-School Disciplinary Measures