

Student Dress Code

The intent of the dress code is to foster an environment that is sanitary, safe and conducive to teaching and student learning. It is also intended to provide guidance to prepare students for their role in the work place and society. All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. School functions are defined as school-sponsored extra-curricular events or activities that occur both on and off school property, including but not limited to athletic events, concerts, dances and field trips. This is especially important when at functions outside the school. Your dress needs to be appropriate for the function you are attending. At these times you are a representative of your community and school, and the impression you make reflects on all.

The school does not dictate styles. However, school officials reserve the right to determine what acceptable and unacceptable attire is. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress, grooming, and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. The Board of Education shall comply with provisions of State Education Law and Decisions of the Commissioner of Education dealing with student dress.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall:

1. Not endanger the health, safety and welfare of self or others..
2. Not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. **Clothing which may be deemed inappropriate** (dependent upon school activity and setting) includes, but is not limited to: tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps (shoulder straps should be at least two fingers wide), bare midriffs (front and/or back), muscle shirts, low-cut and/or sagging pants, ripped or "destroyed" pants, swimsuits, sunglasses, and any see-through garments.
3. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, or that defame or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.
4. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
5. Skirts and shorts must extend at least to the top of the palm when standing normally, unless leggings are worn underneath.
6. Necklines and backs of blouses and shirts
 - a) No lower than one hands' width below the collar bone in front.
 - b) No lower than the center of the shoulder blade in back.
 - c) One hand must be able to cover any opening below the arm.
7. Ensure that undergarments are completely covered with outer clothing. Any clothing insufficient to conceal undergarments at all times such as low-cut or sagging pants, ripped or "destroyed" pants, mesh/sheer shirts, and transparent blouses, shirts or dresses is not allowed
8. Back Packs/Book Bags (of all sizes) will be stored in lockers between 8:00a.m. and 2:55p.m.

9. Footwear should be worn at all times. Footwear needs to be appropriate for the activity (i.e., athletic shoes for P.E., closed toe shoes for outdoor activities, etc.)
10. No jewelry (watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, piercings, etc) will be worn during physical education.
11. All hats, visors, bandannas worn in any manner, and other head coverings-are not allowed to be worn during the school day (8:00a.m.-2:55p.m.) except for medical or religious purpose.

Consequences

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, or replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension.

Teachers are responsible for reasonably enforcing the dress code. In the case of a question regarding whether a student is in violation of the dress code the Principals will be responsible for making a final determination. In such a case the student should be sent to the appropriate office with a pass. On the back of the pass the teacher should simply state what part of the student's dress, grooming and appearance is in violation of the Student Dress Code and the Principals will make a determination.

Each building Principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Formal and Semi-Formal Dress Code

(Includes the Prom, Home-Coming and other dances and Extra-Curricular Events)

- ❖ These guidelines will be enforced, with modesty in mind.
- ❖ Necklines and backs of dresses, tops and jackets must be worn no lower than one hands' width below the collar bone in front; no lower than the center of the shoulder blade in back; and one hand must be able to cover any opening below the arm.
- ❖ More than one-third of the midriff may not be exposed including the front and sides.
- ❖ Dress, skirt and pant length, including any slits, must be at least mid thigh (that is, the hemline must be longer than 5 inches above the middle of the knee both front and back).
- ❖ No pinning will be allowed as an alteration for any garment. Fabric inserts must be sewn, not pinned on the dress garment if the garment does not meet dress code without inserts.
- ❖ Pants should fit properly on the hip and not sag below the waistline.

Please Note:

- ❖ These guidelines apply to both DCS students and their dates.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of the students to inform their dates of the dress code guidelines.
- ❖ DCS students and/or their dates who are not dressed appropriately may not be allowed to enter the Prom, Homecoming or other dances or extracurricular events.
- ❖ These guidelines do not limit your ability to show your style and uniqueness.
- ❖ If you have questions about your prom attire, you may bring it in or a photo (front and back) to show to the principal, a guidance counselor or your class advisor.