



STUDENTS: Conduct

Student Dress Code

I. Purpose

- A. The student dress code is intended to outline acceptable standards for student dress during the school day and during other school-sponsored activities in order to preserve a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning.
- B. The student dress code shall apply to all students while on school property, while participating in school-sponsored activities and events and while being transported to and from school or school-sponsored activities and events.

II. Definitions

- A. *Attire* – Articles of personal appearance including, but not limited to, clothing, headwear, jewelry, book bags, or body art.
- B. *Gang* – “Criminal Gang” means a group or association of three or more persons whose members:
 - 1. Individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity;
 - 2. Have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed by adults; and,
 - 3. Have in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure.
- C. *Headwear* – Any article worn on the head including, but not limited to, hats, scarves, sunglasses, bandanas, hoods, or visors.
- D. *Parent* – The biological parent, legal guardian or person acting in the absence of the parent or guardian.
- E. *School Property* – Any Board-owned, controlled or leased property or vehicle regardless of whether students are present.

- F. *School-Sponsored Activity* – An activity that is sponsored, approved, conducted, planned and/or supervised by school personnel, regardless of whether the activity takes place on or off school property or occurs during regular instructional hours.

III. Standards

- A. Students will wear attire in a manner that supports a healthy and safe learning environment.
- B. Students will not wear attire that is disruptive to the school environment, that promotes illegal or harmful activities or that could endanger the health and safety of the student or other students, which includes but is not limited to that which:
 - 1. Depicts messages that are lewd, vulgar, obscene, plainly offensive, violent, sexually explicit or that reference items that are illegal in general or illegal specifically for underage students;
 - 2. Promotes use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol or other illegal or harmful products;
 - 3. Contains sexually suggestive messages;
 - 4. Depicts gang affiliation;
 - 5. Causes or is likely to cause a substantial or material disruption to school activities or the orderly and safe operation of the school or at school-sponsored activities;
 - 6. Contains rude, disrespectful or discourteous expressions inconsistent with civil discourse and behavior.
- C. The following specific items are not permitted, except in individual cases as approved by the principal of the school:
 - 1. Bare feet;
 - 2. Headwear, except as worn for medical reasons or as a legitimate expression of a student's religious practice and faith.

IV. Compliance

The principal, or his/her designee, is responsible for ensuring that all students, staff and parents are informed of the provisions of the student dress code annually at the beginning of each school year and whenever appropriate.

V. Violations

- A. If any staff member believes that a student is in violation of the student dress code, that staff member will refer the student to an administrator who will intervene and take appropriate corrective action.
- B. If it is determined by an administrator that a violation exists, the administrator may:
 - 1. Require the student to remove or change the attire and take reasonable steps to notify the student's parent of the violation.
 - 2. Take disciplinary action in compliance with the Student Behavior Code.

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-306, Corporal Punishment; State Code of Discipline*
COMAR 13.A.08.01.11, *Disciplinary Action*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5330, *Social Events*
Board of Education Policy 5500, *Code of Student Conduct*
Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5551, *Gang Activity and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5580, *Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment or Intimidation*
Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Responsibilities and Rights*

Rule

Superintendent of Schools

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