



## **Dress Code Details**

### **Please refer to HCS Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code and Uniforms**

The board believes a safe and disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a good school.

The dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students, the board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

- violates the school system's dress code developed by the superintendent and adopted in accordance with this policy and publicized by each school;
- is substantially disruptive;
- is provocative or obscene; or
- endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

#### **A. Student Dress Code**

The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning and displays good judgment as it relates to age, developmental stages, and body type. Student school attire should be neat, clean, properly fitted and suitable for the learning environment. The following is acceptable under the dress code policy:

- 1. Bottoms, Jumpers, Dresses, Pants, Capris, Walking Shorts, Skorts, and Skirts**
  - a. Bottoms should not show excessive skin. Distressed jeans are allowable at the knee and below. If distressed on the thigh or above something must be worn underneath.
  - b. Bottoms should be sized appropriately, including waist and length, with no undergarments exposed.
  - c. Dresses, jumpers, shorts, skorts and skirts must be of modest length. The length of these items may not be above the student's fingertips when the student's arms are relaxed at his/her side.
  - d. If belts are worn, they must not be oversized and must be buckled.
  - e. Leggings and jeggings are not appropriate.
- 2. Shirts and Tops**
  - a. Undergarments should not be visible at any time. Students may wear t-shirts or camisoles that are solid in color underneath his/ her top.
  - b. Shirts and tops should have an appropriate neckline and obvious shoulder line.
  - c. Tube tops and strapless shirts are not permitted. Straps must be at least an inch wide
  - d. Clothing displaying obscene language/pictures and/or promoting illegal activity is not allowed.

- e. See Halifax County Schools Board Policy 4326, Gang-related Activity Section A, for restrictions on clothing related to gangs.

**3. Shoes**

- a. Footwear should fit securely on the feet and must be worn at all times.
- b. Shoes should be appropriate for school activities such as P.E. classes, recess, ROTC, science labs, etc.
- c. No bedroom slippers or slip-on shoes allowed.

**4. Outerwear**

- a. Hoodies and hooded jackets may not have the hood covering the head while in the school building. Violation of this may result in not being allowed to wear a hoodie to school.
- b. Hats, toboggans, head scarves, wave caps, sunglasses, etc. must not be worn in the school building.
- c. Bandanas, skull caps, sweatbands, etc. should not be worn to school.

**B. Exceptions to Dress Code Policy**

**1. Religious or Medical Waivers**

- a. Reasonable consideration will be made for those students who, because of sincerely held religious beliefs or medical reasons, request a waiver of a particular requirement for dress or appearance.
- b. Written waiver requests must be submitted on an annual basis. In considering a waiver request, the principal or designee may request additional documentation from medical officials and/or religious leaders.

**2. Special Activity Accommodation**

- a. The principal shall make reasonable accommodations for students involved in special duties, activities, or projects approved by the school. Such special duties, activities, and projects include, but are not limited to, athletics, P.E. classes, and other activities that require non-conforming dress on a school campus during the school day.
- b. Students who are taking classes that require a special dress code (such as JROTC or career and technical education internships) may wear that clothing to other classes.

**C. Enforcement**

Each principal and/or designee shall ensure that this policy is enforced in a manner that is consistent with other Halifax County schools and applied consistently within their assigned school building.

**D. Compliance Measures**

- 1. Each school should strive to achieve full compliance through use of incentives and positive reinforcement measures, and should resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, schools shall communicate with parents so that expectations, rationale and benefits are fully understood by the student and his/her family.
- 2. Prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the policy, a conference with the parent must be held with a school administrator or counselor to solicit parental cooperation and support.

3. Disciplinary action is to be initiated only after the student has been out of compliance for two (2) school days and all other measures to secure support and cooperation as mentioned above have not succeeded. A "progressive discipline" approach is to be employed by the school support staff so as to encourage full and consistent compliance with the least amount of disciplinary action.
4. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-390.2](#)

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy [4300](#)), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy [4315](#)), Gang-Related Activity (policy 4328)

Replaces: 6241 (adopted August 7, 2006)

Adopted: April 2, 2012

Revised: [This date should be the date the board votes to adopt the revised policy.]

## 1. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

It is the responsibility of district level administrators to adequately communicate to schools all information concerning the uniform policy, including general guidelines for implementation.

District administrators shall also work with schools to facilitate implementation of financial assistance programs. (See Section III below).

Compliance measures to be employed;

- **First Offense – Warning**
- **Second Offense – Change of clothes; parent notification**
- **Third Offense – Overnight OSS; parent conference**
- **After the Third Offense - 3 days OSS**

The means by which this information is communicated shall include one or more of the following: district newsletter, school newsletters; parent forums; telephone notification; PTSA meetings and newsletters; parent advisory meetings; television, radio, and/or newspaper announcements; posters displayed at school and in the community; or registration materials.

## 2. INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE



- No flip-flops, shower shoes, or open toed shoes.
- No tank tops, under shirts, halter-tops, strapless tops, or spaghetti straps.
- Also, no sheer or see-through materials are allowed.
- Bandanas of any color or design cannot be worn.
- No gang signs, gang related symbols, or any article that displays gang related colors.
- Clothing which is too tight or too revealing is not permitted.
- Bra straps must not be seen.
- Stretch pants, leggings, spandex, skin-tight clothing and/or sweat pants are not allowed.
- Pants must be belted and worn at the waist. **No sagging!**
- No pajama clothing including: tops, bottoms, bonnets, bedroom shoes, blankets or pillows