
STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

The purpose of the dress code is to ensure that a student’s dress and appearance promote a positive learning environment, does not disrupt the learning of others or the general operation of the school, and does not create a safety hazard. Both research and experience have shown that student conduct, identification with the school purposes and activities, personal pride and self-respect, and even the level of learning responses of students are all related to personal appearance and mode of dress. Maintaining a positive learning environment and ensuring the health and safety of each student are high priorities of the Ashe County Schools.

Students are expected to dress in a manner that does not cause disruption in school and promotes respect. Clothing should be clean, neat, and appropriate for school wear. Clothing or accessories that are disruptive, potentially injurious, or that creates a question regarding a student’s health and safety, will not be allowed. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to change the clothing or accessories in question. If a student has to be sent to the office because of a dress code infraction, instruction time is interrupted for the student, the teacher, and the other students in the class. Furthermore, more time is lost for the student if the administration determines that the clothing must be changed and the student must wait for a parent to bring the change of clothing.

School administrators have the authority and the responsibility to determine what clothing or accessories are disruptive to the school environment or injurious to a student’s health and safety. Cooperation among school personnel, parents (or other legal guardians), and students is essential in the implementation and enforcement of school regulations, including this dress code. Decisions regarding a student’s clothing or accessories will be made in accordance with the following guidelines.

This dress code is intended to be nondiscriminatory.

1. **Headgear.** No headgear or sunglasses will be worn in the building, except those worn for obvious or established reasons. Hats/Hoods are not allowed to be worn inside the building.

2. **Shirts/Blouses/Tops.** Blouses/shirts/tops must be secured to the shoulder and worn at all times.
 - No halter-tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps (less than 2”), bralettes, camisoles, or tube tops are allowed.
 - Blouses/shirts/tops that expose any portion of the waist, hips, or midriff are not allowed. Other blouses/shirts not appropriate for school include but are not limited to, low-cut, see through (top underneath must meet dress code), backless tops or have inappropriate cut out holes or slits.
 - No sleeveless/cutout t-shirts are allowed unless an undershirt that meets dress code guidelines is worn.

3. **Shorts/Skirts/Pants.** All shorts and skirts must reach the mid-thigh or the end of the fingertips with arms down at the side.
 - ~~All tops worn with tight legwear (i.e. leggings, tights, jeggings, skinny jeans, yoga pants, etc.)~~

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- must cover the buttock and pelvic areas. Fabric must not be see through (i.e. tights and pantyhose).
 - Slits, holes, or tears in shorts /skirts / pants are not permitted above the mid-thigh or above the length of fingertips with arms down to side.
 - Shorts, skirts, or pants must be worn securely around the waist with no bagging or sagging.
 - The waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be worn on or above the hips with no underwear showing and may not be worn rolled at the waist.
 - Belts may not be excessive in length and should not be hanging from either side of the body.
 - Pajama tops or bottoms are not permitted.
4. **Footwear.** Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are not allowed
 5. **Undergarments.** Undergarments must never be visible.
 6. **Words/Symbols.** No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sexual implications, gang affiliation, or other illegal activity expressively or implied. Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation or any other protected group.
 7. **Jewelry/Accessories.** Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not permitted at school, including, but is not limited to, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are connected, and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist. Sharp objects such as spikes are not allowed on clothing or book bags.
 8. **Other Inappropriate Dress.** Any student dress/appearance not specifically prohibited in this policy but which school administration deems disruptive to the learning process will not be allowed. To ensure student health and safety, school administrators may adopt and implement additional dress and appearance regulations for certain curriculum areas, such as science labs, vocational classes, and JROTC.
 9. **Exceptions.** Exceptions to this policy may be made by school administration on an individual basis for a *bona fide* religious, medical, or other appropriate reason. Schools may designate special dressdays at the direction of the principal.
 10. **Applicability to School Sponsored Trips and Events.** This policy applies to all school-sponsored trips and events. Any deviation from the policy will be discussed by the advisor and the principal or his designee.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. 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)

Adopted: November 1, 2004

Amended: June 4, 2007

Amended: June 29, 2017

Amended: June 30, 2022