

In preparation of our students for college and career, and in order to build character and foster respect among students, the Board of Education sets expectations for student dress and grooming. The Superintendent shall require each school principal to work with the School Governance Team to formulate and/or revise the student dress code for the school and school-sponsored activities.

Upon the recommendation of the School Governance Team, the school may designate uniforms or other specific apparel to be worn at school in keeping with regulations developed by the Superintendent. A student who cannot afford to purchase uniforms or other specific apparel shall not be denied entry to the school for that reason.

Additionally, a student may need to wear specific apparel for medical purposes or as a part of a bona fide personal religious practice. The parent or guardian must provide written documentation to the principal of the medical necessity or the bona fide personal religious practice that requires a deviation from this dress code policy.

The primary responsibility for a student's choice in attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). Restrictions on student dress must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school and must be explained within the dress code.

Students at schools without uniform policies should be able to choose their attire for school and participate in the educational environment without fear of unnecessary discipline.

Enforcement of this dress code should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance. Dress code enforcement shall be carried out in a clear, consistent and equitable manner.

This Student Dress code shall not be interpreted or enforced in any manner that conflicts with [Policy JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities](#), which states that, "No student shall be subjected to discrimination or harassment because of the student's race, color, religion, sex, citizenship, ethnic or national origin, age, disability, medical status, military status, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, ancestry, or any legally protected status in any of the Atlanta Public Schools' education programs, activities or practices. Students are allowed to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender."

School dress codes shall include the following minimum requirements:

1. Clothing, hairstyles, and jewelry must not cause a disruption or constitute a health or safety hazard.
2. Clothing, including spirit wear, must be modest and of appropriate length and fit. Extremely tight clothing, sagging shorts or trousers, or baggy, oversized clothing is not permitted.
3. Clothing and/or jewelry must not contain words or symbols that are gang-related, offensive, insulting, embarrassing, sexually suggestive, obscene, or promote illegal behavior.
4. Clothing and/or jewelry must not contain any advertisement or display of words or symbols associated with alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco.
5. Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times and must not be visible. Pants that sit below the waistline are not allowed. Students are only allowed to wear pajamas on school-sanctioned special days.

6. Caps, hats, head wraps, bandanas, hoods, or other head coverings must not be worn in the school building during the school day unless there is a special activity where they are deemed appropriate by the school principal.

7. Appropriate shoes, those that fit and allow for safe movement throughout the school, must be worn at all times at school and school sponsored activities.

8. In accordance with the recommendations of public health officials, the wearing of personal protective equipment (i.e., face coverings, masks, etc.) by students may be required as part of the student dress code.

The school principal has the authority to interpret the dress code for the school and make a case-by-case determination of the appropriateness of a student's dress and grooming. Violations of the dress code policy will be addressed as Level 1 offenses through the district's progressive discipline policy. Questions from parents or students about the appropriateness of clothing, hairstyles, or jewelry should be directed to the school principal. Additionally, the school principal has the authority to make occasional, school-wide exceptions to certain requirements for such events as "hat day" or "spirit day."

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Last Revised: XX/XX/2020

First Adopted: 8/8/1994, 12/10/2007, 12/4/2017

See also:

Board Policy JAA Equal Educational Opportunities

Board Policy JCDA Student Behavior Code

Legal citations:

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0736 Student codes of conduct; distribution

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