

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

Introduction and Background

The Winslow Township Board of Education believes that school attire can influence a pupil's behavior and potentially impact the academic environment. School uniforms enhance school safety, promote school pride, create a sense of unity amongst students, improve the learning environment, promote attention and focus, bridge socioeconomic differences between children, promote good behavior, improve children's self-respect and self-esteem and produce cost savings for participating families.

Students' attire will reflect good taste, modesty and appropriateness for an educational learning environment. The following dress policies and procedures were developed by a committee including representation of students, parents, teachers, administration and board members. The Board held a public hearing prior to the adoption and implementation of this Policy relative to each school within the District.

Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

Information Dissemination:

It will be the responsibility of each school principal, in conjunction with the school HSA or PTO, to communicate to parents information relative to this policy, including general guidelines, clothing requirements, exemptions, disciplinary actions for violations of the policy and financial assistance programs. Information can be disseminated through school newsletters, parent forums, telephone notification, HSA/PTO meetings and correspondence or posters within the school buildings. Communication to the parents shall include specific type and color of uniform required and a list of suggested retailers for the purchase of uniforms.



Financial Considerations

The District will:

1. Develop a procedure and criteria to identify families in need of financial assistance;
2. Designate a staff member to assist those families in need of assistance;
3. The Principal of each school shall work with the staff (Social Worker) and local school community to identify resources for assisting families.

Dress Code Implementation

In order to preserve a positive school climate, the dress code will be implemented as follows:

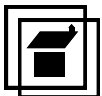
1. Implementation of the Dress Code will commence in September 2014 and it applies to all schools in the Winslow Township School District.
2. Students that are new to the District will be expected to comply upon beginning their first day of school in the Winslow School District.

Uniform Dress Code for All Students:

Pants/Skirts:

- Pants/Skirts shall be khaki or navy blue in color
- Jumpers/Dresses shall be khaki, dark green or navy blue in color
- Standard “uniform” slacks for boys and girls (cargo pants, balloon style, multiple pockets are not permitted)
- Skirts/Skorts and jumpers/dresses are acceptable for girls*
- Shorts may be worn in the warm weather*
- No denim will be permitted
- All pants/skirts/shorts must be worn with the waistband at the waist. No drooping pants.
- Stockings/tights/socks, and regular stockings (hose) may be worn beneath skirts/skorts/jumpers/dresses
- Sweat pants/gym shorts and t-shirts (grey or dark green) may be worn on gym days. Students will be asked to wear sneakers on their gym days.

*Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers/dresses are to be no more than 3 to 4 inches above the knee (mid-thigh) per District Dress Guidelines.



Shirts/Blouses:

- Shirts/blouses shall be white, dark green or navy blue
- Solid color
 - Shirts with collars only, i.e. polo style
 - Long sleeve or short sleeve
- No denim
- Long sleeve same color solid turtlenecks/t-shirts may be worn under uniform shirt

Sweaters/Vests:

- Solid color
 - Sweaters/vests shall be white, dark green or navy blue
 - Crew or V-neck sweater
 - Zippered/crew neck sweatshirts may be worn over but not instead of a regular shirt (no hoodies are permitted)

Accessories:

- Jewelry and watches are permitted. Over-sized chains or excessive jewelry are not permitted. Chains worn at the waist are not permitted.

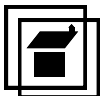
Footwear:

- Appropriate footwear should be worn at all times, such as shoes, sneakers, etc. All footwear must be secured to the student's feet. (Flip-flops, thongs or slippers are not permitted for safety reasons.)

Other:

- Hats, sweatbands, bandannas, head covers or picks are not to be worn in the building. The only exceptions are for medical or religious reasons. Both exceptions require official documentation.
- Sunglasses or glasses with dark lenses may not be worn in the building without a doctor's note.
- Outdoor garments, coats, jackets, windbreakers, warm-up jackets, hats, and gloves may not be worn in the building after the homeroom bell rings. Students are expected to keep these in their classrooms for colder days.

ALL CLOTHES MUST BE WORN PROPERLY AT ALL TIMES



Uniform Dress Code for All Students During Physical Education:

All Students will follow this procedure for Physical Education (PE) days and classes.

- T-shirt or sweat shirt (grey or dark green)
- Shorts (grey or dark green)
- Sweat suit (grey or dark green) (as appropriate)
- Sneakers are the only approved footwear for physical education classes (with socks)
- No jewelry of any kind shall be worn during gym
- Only school logos will be allowed on any gym uniform. No other writing may appear on clothing.

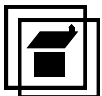
Exemptions to the Dress Code Policy:

All exemptions will require a waiver approved by the Principal of the School. The exemptions to the dress policy requirement are as follows:

1. Health – A valid health issue that would preclude a student from being able to wear the uniform to school. A medical certificate shall be provided.
2. Religious Freedom – For families who belong to a denomination or sect that have historical religious tenets which preclude a student from wearing any clothing other than religious apparel.
3. Financial Hardship – No student shall be denied attendance at school or penalized for failing to wear a uniform by reason of demonstrated financial hardship.

The following procedure must be observed to secure a waiver for exemption:

1. Request an Application for Exemption from the District, either at the student's school or central administration;
2. Complete the Application in full and submit it to the school's Principal for uniform program exemption;
3. Meet with the school Principal to discuss the uniform policy and the nature of the parent(s) or guardian's objections to the policy.

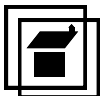


The purpose of this meeting includes:

1. Ensuring that the parent(s) or guardian understand the reasons for and the goals of the uniform policy;
2. Verifying the accuracy of the information on the application;
3. Preventing fraud or misrepresentation.

A. Dress Code Violations and Enforcement of Policy:

1. The building administrator will determine whether a student's attire meets the approved dress policy. Students choosing not to comply with the dress policy attire, will be disciplined in a manner set forth in the district's Code of Conduct. The same Code and rules will apply to all students as in the past with dress policy violations. Students will be afforded the opportunity to change into appropriate attire if at all possible before any disciplinary action is imposed.
2. When a student fails to comply with the dress policy, then the parent/guardian will be contacted to provide appropriate clothing. If appropriate clothing is not provided, then the parent/guardian will be asked to pick up the student.
3. Teaching staff members will report violations of the dress policy to the Building Principal or designee, who will interpret and apply the policy.
4. Pupils will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip, after-school activities unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with this dress policy and the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge.
5. The Principal may waive application of the dress policy for special school activity days.
6. A pupil whose dress or grooming has been found by the Principal or designee to violate this Policy may appeal the determination to the Superintendent.



B. Dress that is Disruptive and/or Offensive is Prohibited:

1. Clothing that is ripped, torn, revealing, low cut, tight or too short.
2. Any article of clothing or decoration such as patches or badges containing obscene, or offensive language, symbols or phrases that create a nuisance, disturbance, or draw undue attention in the classroom, or on the school grounds is prohibited.
3. Gang affiliation colors, hats, symbols are not permitted.
4. Students dressing inappropriately and/or unsafe clothing shall receive the counseling and education regarding appropriate school dress. If a student dresses inappropriately, then the parent/guardian will be contacted to provide appropriate clothing. If appropriate clothing is not provided, then the parent/guardian will be asked to pick up the student.
5. If a student's dress is disruptive and/or offensive the parent/guardian shall be contacted, the clothing may be confiscated if appropriate (only items that are accessories such as hats, jackets, etc... may be confiscated); and detention will be issued. Repeated violations of the school dress policy may result in parent/guardian conference and suspension.

Annual Evaluation:

The Board of Education will review the effectiveness of this Policy on an annual basis before the end of each school year. The Principal of each building will prepare and issue a report to the Superintendent to be presented to the Board. The report shall indicate the influence school uniforms had on the school's learning environment. This report shall be presented to the Board by June 30. The Board will consider the report for each school and may revise this Policy, if applicable.

Dress Attire for Students Granted a Waiver:

Students who have been granted an approved uniform waiver are required to dress in the school colors: navy blue, white or dark green, during regular school hours unless contrary to a religious exemption. The following standards shall apply to all students during school hours and at school activities when uniforms are not required and/or an approved uniform waiver is granted.



POLICY

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUPILS
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General Waiver of Dress Code Policy:

The uniform requirements set forth in this policy may be suspended for a classroom, grade and/or school wide activity as appropriate. Any variation of or temporary suspension of the uniform requirements must be approved by the building principal or his/her designee prior to the day of the activity.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-7 Legislative findings and declaration
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8 Adoption of dress codes by boards of education
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9 Adoption of dress code policy prohibiting wearing of clothing indicating membership of certain gangs.

Public Hearing(s): 05/08/2013; 10/23/2013; 11/06/2013
Introduction in 1st Reading: 26 November 2013
Adoption Date: 11 December 2013

