

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Dress and Grooming
Code	221
Status	Review
Adopted	August 14, 2013
Last Revised	April 13, 2022
Last Reviewed	June 30, 2023

## **Purpose**

The intent of this policy is to ensure that our students dress appropriately, are not disruptive to the educational process, and do not compromise the safety and security of our school. While requiring a specific type of clothing, it is not our purpose to interfere with students' decisions or freedom of expression. However, the safety of all students, the security of the building, and the environment in which our students learn must be the foremost objectives of our school.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

## **Guidelines**

### **Permitted**

- Clothing, including both a shirt with pants, short or skirt, or the equivalent, and shoes.
- Clothing that covers the shoulders, chest, and torso (shoulders to waist) and covers all undergarments.
- Tops that fall comfortably to the belt or buckle of the pants.
- Leggings, sweatpants, yoga pants, khakis, joggers, and non-ripped jeans.
- Appropriate footwear at all times. All footwear must have a back.
- Dresses/Skirts that are at least mid-length, with no plunging backs below the mid-back, not made from transparent material, nor have side or front cut outs.
- Pants that can be worn at/to the waistline. All undergarments must be covered at all times.
- Crewneck sweatshirts and t-shirts.
- **Shirts without collars that are school appropriate and are not revealing, distracting, controversial, or pose a safety threat.**

### **Not Permitted**

- Halter tops, bare midriffs, see-through shirts, mesh shirts, tube tops, sleeveless shirts, tank tops or any top without a back.
- Clothing with obscene language and/or pictures, deemed offensive, sexually suggestive, condoning violence, suicide or vulgar language.
- Excessively short/tight skirts and shorts are inappropriate for school.
- Clothing or article that advertises or advocates the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco or makes reference to gangs, including bandannas and tattoos.
- Cut, ripped, or torn clothing.
- Headgear and/or coats should be placed in student lockers during the school day. Caps, bandannas, hats, or hoods may only be worn outside of the building. If worn, headgear will be confiscated on the first offense and held until the end of the day. Headbands must be appropriate and secure the hair.
- Sagging pants (pants must be secured at the waist).

- Dog chain necklaces, spiked bracelets, hanging belts, or wallet chains.
- Pajamas, slippers, slipper boots, blankets, or bedroom attire.
- Clothing that shows underwear, the midriff, chest, or buttocks.
- Flip flops, sandals, slides, shoes without a back, or any footwear that poses a safety hazard is not permitted.
- Hoodies.
- Cargo Pants/Shorts with multiple pockets.

**\*These guidelines** do not cover every possible situation. Questionable attire or appearance will be referred to the principal or principal's assistant. Since styles of clothing change rapidly, the school reserves the right to restrict certain fashions that are inappropriate and distracting to the learning environment. Maybe if in doubt, do not wear it to school.

### Exemptions

Parents/Guardians who object to the policy based on religious or medical grounds must present to the building principal a signed letter detailing the reason for the objection. The parent/guardian and the building principal will meet to discuss the exemption.

### Board Discretion

The above dress code may be amended at any time at the discretion of the Wyoming Valley West School Board.

### Discipline

The purpose of school is to promote and foster a solid learning environment. Students are expected to dress in a manner which encourages this purpose. Violation of this policy will result in parental notification and appropriate school action.

Noncompliance will be considered a violation of school policy. The consequences will be as follows.

#### *Elementary Level:*

Offense	Disciplinary Action
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	At the discretion of the principal, depending upon the degree of cooperation from the student and parent/guardian, a request for change of clothing, a request to send the student home, or an out-of-school suspension shall take place as deemed appropriate by administration.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be excluded from class (i.e., out-of-school suspension) for one (1) day. A parental meeting must take place for the child to return to class. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.
3 <sup>rd</sup> and Successive Offenses	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be subject to a three (3) to possible ten (10) day out-of-school suspension and a ten (10) day co-curricular suspension. A parental meeting must take place for the student to return to school. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.

#### *Secondary Level:*

Offense	Disciplinary Action

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be excluded from class (i.e., in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension) for one (1) day. Parents/Guardians will be notified of the class exclusion. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be excluded from class (i.e., in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension) for one (1) day. A parental meeting must take place for the child to return to class. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.
3 <sup>rd</sup> and Successive Offenses	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be subject to a three (3) to possible ten (10) day out-of-school suspension and a ten (10) day co-curricular suspension. A parental meeting must take place for the student to return to school. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the dress code.

#### Legal

[1. 22 PA Code 12.11](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1317.3](#)

Pol. 218

Pol. 220

Pol. 233

Pol. 325

Pol. 425

Pol. 525