

HICKORY CITY ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL UNIT

432 Fourth Avenue SW
Hickory, North Carolina 28602

File: JCDBA Policy Code (4316)
STUDENTS

STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE **FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 THROUGH 12**

The Board believes that a safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to operating successful schools. To this end, the Board may authorize schools at one or all grade spans (high school, middle school, elementary school) to implement programs in which students and/or faculty and staff are required to adhere to a standardized dress code during the school day.

The Board believes that there are valid educational reasons to adopt a standardized dress code, including the following:

- Minimize disruptive behavior
- Increase school safety
- De-emphasize socioeconomic differences
- Allow for easy identification of intruders on campus
- Allow students to focus better on instructional objectives of the school
- Favorably impact student attitude
- Promote harmony among students and enhance the image of the school

Therefore, students attending the Hickory Public Schools in grades 6 through 12 will adhere to the following standardized dress code each school day during the entire school day.

TOPS

Acceptable tops include:

- Collared short sleeved or long sleeved knit shirts with button-centered plackets
- Collared long sleeved or short sleeved, buttoned dress shirts
- Turtlenecks and sweaters

Acceptable colors:

- White and all solid colors

Shirts are not required to be tucked in. However, untucked shirts may not extend below the student's mid-thigh.

Sweatshirts without hoods may be worn, but must be worn with a collared shirt underneath. No hooded sweatshirts are allowed.

Tops and shirts may contain only the manufacturer's logo. However, no shirt or top shall have a logo which exceeds the size of a credit card.

JACKETS / COATS/ VESTS

Acceptable jackets, coats and vests include:

- Neither coats, jackets nor vests shall have hoods
- No denim jackets, coats or vests are allowed
- Jackets, coats and vests shall be permitted to have one logo which shall be no larger than three inches by five inches.
- School athletic team jackets and letterman's jackets are permitted.

Acceptable colors:

- White and all solid colors. In addition, two toned solid colored jackets, coats and vests are acceptable.

Students will be provided a four week grace period to fully comply with the provisions of this policy regulating coats, jackets and vests. The four week grace period begins upon the date of adoption of this policy which regulates jackets, coats and vests.

BOTTOMS/ DRESSES

Acceptable bottoms include:

- Pants, skirts, shorts, skorts and capris
- Dresses with collars are permissible.
- No cargo pants,
- Jeggings, leggings or tights shall not be worn as the primary bottom. Solid colored tights and leggings may be worn underneath appropriate bottoms.
- No blue jeans are allowed
- Shorts, dresses, skorts, skirts and dresses shall be no shorter than two inches above the top of the kneecap
- Belts must be standard hook and eye or contain interlocking rings. The belt tail cannot hang lower than four (4) inches. Large belt buckles are prohibited.
- No exercise or active wear shall be worn as the primary bottom.

Acceptable colors: khaki, black, navy, white

SHOES/ FOOTWEAR

For health and safety reasons, appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are prohibited. Socks are not considered to be footwear for purposes of this policy.

HATS/ HEADGEAR

Hats and headgear are not permitted to be worn during school hours. Hats and headgear worn to school must be stored in the student's locker or backpack during school hours.

EXCEPTIONS

- New or transferring students will be given seven (7) calendar days to come into compliance with this Policy.
- Reasonable exceptions will be considered when medically necessary.
- Each school retains the ability to make exceptions to this Policy during its Spirit Week
- Each Friday, students may wear t-shirts or and/or sweatshirts that have a club, class or athletic theme associated with their respective school.

NON-COMPLIANCE

- Each school shall require full and consistent compliance of the standardized dress code with the least amount of disciplinary action.
- Penalties for non-compliance to this policy shall be established by the school's disciplinary policies.

EXEMPTIONS

- Exemptions will be considered and determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee when compliance with this policy interferes with the student's sincerely held religious belief or customs.
- No other exemptions will be considered.

The clothing regulated by this Policy shall not be see-through, cut, slashed, torn, advertise drugs/alcohol, display obscene or pornographic words or otherwise be disruptive. All shirts, blouses, and top garments shall cover the back and torso and have necklines and arm cuts that are not disruptive or distracting.

To ensure compliance with this Policy, the Board shall provide for the following:

- Provisions for the purchase of an adequate number of items for use in the “clothes closet” for use by students who are not in compliance;
- Provisions for the purchase of clothing for students who, because of financial hardships, are unable to purchase the required clothing (may be based on free and reduced lunch eligibility);
- Provisions that ensure that a student’s sincerely held religious beliefs are not substantially burdened;
- Provisions for the involvement of parents;
- Provisions for the enforcement of the implementation of the standardized dress code policy, including disciplinary consequences for students failing to comply;
- Provisions to implement a procedure for evaluating the standardized dress code policy on a yearly basis
- Provisions to consider reasonable exceptions when medically indicated

Details of standardized dress codes implemented at specific grade spans shall be attached as an appendix to this policy for reference.

This policy shall be reviewed annually in May or as often as the Board deems necessary.

Adopted: *November 19, 2007*
Revised: *June 25, 2012*
Revised: *October 10, 2016*