

# Knox County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

## Dress Code

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JCBF

Issued Date:

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### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRESS CODE

The standards for elementary school dress reflect "common sense" and a concern for each child's comfort, safety, cleanliness, and sense of modesty. There is a strong relationship between neat, appropriate attire and a positive learning environment.

To help create the best learning environment for elementary students, the following standards for student dress must be observed in all Knox County Elementary Schools:

1. Pants must not sag below the waist and must not touch the floor.
2. Shirts, blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, and shoulders. Shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts or skirts with no midriff visible.
3. Head apparel, except for religious or medical reasons, must not be worn inside the school building.
4. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor or outdoor physical activity. Flip-flops and shower-type shoes are examples of inappropriate footwear for school.
5. Clothing or accessories may not display offensive, vulgar language or images and must not advertise products which students may not legally purchase.
6. "Short shorts", mini-skirts, and spandex are deemed inappropriate attire for students in grades 3-5.
7. Coats and jackets exceeding fingertip length are not to be worn in the building.

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty.

The principal may allow exceptions for school-wide programs or special classroom activities.

The teachers and the principal(s) will administer consequences for policy infractions as follows:

First Offense - Teacher will send student to clinic/office or will contact parent(s) for a change of clothes. Parent will be notified and infraction will be documented.

Second Offense - Principal will talk with parent(s) and send copy of the dress policy. Infraction will be documented.

Third and Future Offenses will be administered by the principal in accordance with the school-wide discipline plan.

This policy does not preclude individual schools from piloting alternative dress policies or standards with permission from the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education after extensive consultation with parents, teachers, and students. Any deviation from the system-wide policy must be submitted to the elementary coordinator, the Superintendent, and the Board.

1 **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

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3 The following expectations for student dress have been established to promote a safe and optimum learning  
4 environment.

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6 Apparel or appearance which tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation must  
7 be avoided. In matters of opinion, the judgement of the principal/designee shall prevail.

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9 The following standards will be observed in all Knox County Middle and High Schools:

- 10  
11 1. Pants must be worn at the waist. No sagging allowed.
- 12 2. Shirts, blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, shoulders and  
13 must have sleeves. Shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts with no  
14 midriff visible.
- 15 3. Head apparel, except for religious or medical purposes, must not be worn inside the school  
16 building.
- 17 4. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity. Flip-  
18 flops and shower-type shoes are examples of inappropriate footwear for school.
- 19 5. Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, patches, jewelry, and notebooks must not  
20 display (1) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, (2) gang affiliations, (3) vulgar, subversive, or  
21 sexually suggestive language or images; nor, should they promote products which students  
22 may not legally buy; such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.
- 23 6. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be beyond fingertip length.
- 24 7. Prohibited items include (1) large, long and/or heavy chains, (2) studded or chained acces-  
25 sories, (3) sunglasses, except for health purposes, (4) sleepwear, and (5) skin-tight outer  
26 materials such as spandex.
- 27 8. Coats and jackets exceeding fingertip length are not to be worn in the building.

28  
29 The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of  
30 decency and modesty.

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32 The principal may allow exceptions in special circumstances or occasions such as holidays or special perfor-  
33 mances and may further prescribe dress in certain classes such as physical education, vocational classes, and  
34 science labs.

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36 Any student not attired in accordance with the policy shall be subject to the following consequences:

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38 1. Correct the violation or spend the remainder of the day in in-school suspension (ISS).
- 39 2. Repeat offenders shall be subject to additional measures which include parent conferences,  
40 in- school suspension, and out-of-school suspensions as described in the county-wide  
41 discipline policy.

42  
43 <sup>1</sup>This policy does not preclude individual schools from piloting alternative dress policies or standards with  
44 permission from the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education after extensive consultation with  
45 parents, teachers, and students. Any deviation from the system-wide policy must be submitted to the middle  
46 and high school coordinators for review and recommendation to the Superintendent and the Board of  
47 Education.

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49 <sup>1</sup>School Uniform and Policy/Procedures Manual