

Bedford County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in February	Descriptor Term: Student Dress Code	Descriptor Code: 6.310	Issued Date: 06/30/14
		Rescinds: 6.310	Issued: 06/17/14

1 *This policy is mandated for grades 6-12 and voluntary compliance for K-5 students is*
2 *encouraged. It shall be uniformly implemented and enforced throughout the school system.*
3 *The Student Dress Code shall be in effect during school hours and at any school activity or event*
4 *at which student attendance is required. Voluntary and after-hours extracurricular activities are*
5 *not subject to the dress code.*

6 **I. ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE IN BEDFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS (Grades 6-12)**

- 7 A) Pants, jeans, shorts, leggings, skirts, and dresses, meeting guidelines below.
8 B) **Shirts with a collar (polo, button down, turtleneck, etc.) are expected and may be**
9 **worn in any color, stripe, or pattern. Shirts shall be properly buttoned. School**
10 **approved t-shirts are also permissible for normal wear at any time.**
11 C) Chest and midriffs must be covered.
12 D) **Shirts Clothing** may not display any writing, pictures, or images depicting alcohol,
13 drugs, sexual references/images/innuendo, or other messages contrary to the
14 mission of education.
15 ~~E) Shirts shall be properly buttoned. School approved t-shirts are permissible for~~
16 ~~normal wear.~~

17 **Implementation Details**

18 Students' dress and grooming will be clean and neat. Clothes and appearances must be safe and
19 not disruptive to the educational process.

20 **II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 21 A) The Student Dress Code will be in effect during both the school year and summer
22 school program.
23 B) Students will wear clothing of an appropriate size. Appropriate sizes are defined as
24 being of a proportional size to the wearer (no more than one size smaller or
25 larger).
26 C) The school system will not require specific brands of clothing.
27 D) All clothing must be hemmed without un-mended holes or rips.

28 **Pants, jeans, legging, shorts, skirts, or dresses**

- 29 1. Pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, skirts, or dresses are permitted.

- 1 2. Pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, skirts must be worn at the waist without “sagging”.
- 2 Pant length should not extend to below the shoe.
- 3 3. Leggings must not be worn as pants or primary cover. They must be covered with
- 4 acceptable length shorts, tops, dresses or skirts.
- 5 4. Shorts, dresses, skirts, and tops worn with/or without leggings must extend below
- 6 the fingertip when student is standing straight, relaxed and flat footed.

7 **Outerwear**

8 Lightweight outerwear garments are permitted in the building.

9 “Hoodies” are considered as allowable outerwear; however at no time may hoods be

10 worn on the head inside the school building.

11 Heavy coats are allowed to be worn to school but must be stored in lockers after arrival.

12 Heavy outerwear may not be worn during the school day.

13 **Attire for Special Occasions**

- 14 1. The principals of individual schools may allow exceptions to the Student Dress Code
- 15 for school-wide activities up to ten (10) school days per year. Such exceptions would
- 16 include a particular mode of attire for special occasion days such as School Spirit
- 17 Week or for particular school-sponsored or school-related activities during the course
- 18 of the school day.
- 19 2. In addition, principals will have the authority to approve occasional variations from
- 20 the Student Dress Code for recognized school activities as deemed appropriate.

21 **Footwear**

22 Footwear must be worn at all times. Laces on shoes must be tied. No skate shoes or

23 house shoes are allowed.

24 **III. DRESS CODE PROHIBITIONS**

25 *(These restrictions do not apply to non-mandatory after-school activities such as athletic*

26 *events.)*

- 27 A. Leisure pants, jogging pants, sweatpants and athletic shorts are not permissible.
- 28 B. Ripped, torn clothing or clothing with visible holes is prohibited. In addition, no see-
- 29 through clothing is to be worn. Stressed and excessively frayed jeans are not allowed.
- 30 C. Logos or manufacturers’ trademarks with writing or images of substances that are illegal
- 31 for teens (i.e. drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) or are otherwise offensive, lewd,
- 32 indecent, vulgar, obscene, profane, gang-related or constitute racial or ethnic slurs may
- 33 not be worn. This prohibition applies to all school activities.

- 1 D. Tattoos that display drugs, alcohol or tobacco products, or gang or sex-related words or
- 2 images must not be visible.
- 3 E. Chains and spiked accessories are not permissible. Belts may not hang down as a “tail”
- 4 from the belt loop.
- 5 F. Head coverings and sunglasses are not to be worn.
- 6 G. The wearing of jewelry in any visible piercing other than the ear is prohibited during
- 7 school time or school functions.
- 8 H. Anything that is deemed by school administration to be a disruption in the classroom.

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10 **IV. COMPLIANCE**

11 *School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain*

12 *compliance with dress code requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the*

13 *dress code, discipline is appropriate. The following discipline procedures will apply:*

14 **A. First Offense**

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- 16 1. A student whose clothing or accessories violate the Student Dress Code shall be
- 17 referred to the office for remediation and/or punishment.
- 18 2. Repeated violations of the student dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior
- 19 and/or defiance of school authority and may result in in-school suspension or out-
- 20 of-school suspension as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct, Disciplinary
- 21 Due Process. (Bedford County OSS involves attending Bedford County Learning
- 22 Academy located in the old Harris annex.)
- 23

24 **V. SYSTEMWIDE DRESS CODE EXEMPTION PROCESS**

25 Schools will provide reasonable accommodation to students whose religious beliefs,

26 medical condition or disability requires special clothing.

27 To request such accommodation:

- 28 • Parents must obtain a copy of this policy and an exemption form from their school. The
- 29 exemption form must be completed by the parent and returned to the school. The
- 30 school will forward this information to Supervisor of Student Services.
- 31 • The Supervisor of Student Services will review the exemption request. The parent will be
- 32 notified in writing of the status of the request within ten (10) days.
- 33 • To appeal, the parent may request a meeting with the Supervisor of Student Services.
- 34 Based upon the outcome of that meeting, the Supervisor of Student Services will notify
- 35 the parent in writing of the status of the request within five (5) days.
- 36 • A further appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to Policy
- 37 6.305-*Complaints & Grievances.*

1 School system or campus personnel will not discriminate against any student who has been
2 exempted from the mandatory compliance with the standard dress code because of
3 objections based on religious, medical or disability needs.

4 **VI. AUTHORITY OF THE BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

5 The Board reserves the right to modify this policy as necessary. The school system
6 reserves the right to determine what may be disruptive and unsafe.

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Legal References

Cross References

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