

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring:

Descriptor Term:

Descriptor Code: Issued Date:

**Review:
Annually,
in April**

Dress Code

6.310 08/21/18

Rescinds: Issued:

6.310 07/29/11

(1) Rationale

The principals, designated by the Board of Education as the educational leaders of Marion County Schools are generally responsible for the attitude, manners, and conduct of the students and staff. Therefore, the principal, subject to confirmation by the Director of Schools and the Board of Education, has specific authority to determine a standard of dress and good grooming that will be compatible with a wholesome school situation. All students are expected to adhere to common practices of modesty, cleanliness and neatness; to dress in conformity with the accepted standards of the community; and to contribute in such manner to the academic atmosphere and not detract from it. No attempt will be made to dictate fashion styles as long as they are in keeping with Marion County Schools' policies. It should be noted, however, that it is the responsibility of the student and parent to adhere to the Dress Code. The Administrators of the Marion County Schools shall have the right to appraise any current fashion or fad and determine whether or not it is appropriate for school. Fashions that the principal deems a distraction to the educational process will not be allowed. In matters of opinion, the judgment of administrators will stand.

In order to provide a safe and secure school, strengthen the educational focus, and establish an orderly learning environment while preparing students for success in the professional work place, students, parents and faculty at Marion County Schools have established the following standards for student dress and appearance.

(2) General Information

Students are expected to adhere to dress code at all times while on campus during regular school hours. The school staff will correct any fixable violations, with repeated violations possibly carrying disciplinary consequences. If a student arrives at school and cannot comply with the dress code, he/she will not be allowed to attend classes. The student will be isolated, and a parent called to bring appropriate clothing. If there is a question regarding a questionable item, please obtain clarification from the school administration before wearing the item.

(3) All Apparel:

- Must be size appropriate, and free from holes, rips, tears, cuts, or frayed hems.
- No article of clothing may be worn which implies or otherwise promotes alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, violence, gangs, racial or offensive language. This includes belt buckles and jewelry
- Extraneous zippers, metal studs, or dangling cloth strips are forbidden.
- Any item bearing the logo of any school other than the school the student attends is strictly forbidden. College, military or professional sports team logos are acceptable.
- Solids and patterns are permitted.
- No undergarments should be visible at any time.

(4) Bottom Wear:

- Pants must be securely fastened about the waist and made of cotton, cotton/polyester, twill or denim.
- Shorts must be "Bermuda" length and skirts must be knee length.
- Slacks, shorts or skirts will be worn at or above the hip point and be able to stay up without a belt; NO undergarments are to be visible at any time.
- Unacceptable items include (but are not limited to): gym shorts, tights or leggings (worn as pants), yoga pants, sweat pants, jogging pants, nylon, spandex, and tight stretch pants.

(5) Dresses and Skirts

For female students, dresses or skirts are acceptable if they meet guidelines for top/bottom wear. Dresses or blouse must have sleeves, no slender straps or tanks, no cold shoulders.

(6) Shirts:

- Shirts must have sleeves, cover midriff area, and have a modest neckline. Any style or pattern is acceptable as long as it is modest and appropriate.
- Unacceptable items include but are not limited to: items with a low neckline, made of see-through material, shirts with cutouts, or jerseys unless issued by school.
- Shirts must be worn under team jerseys.

(7) Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times. House shoes or slippers are not allowed. Shoes must have a back or heel strap no flipflops.

(8) Coats/Jackets

- Lightweight jackets including sweaters, vests, sweatshirts, or raincoats are permitted.
- No long or trench coats are allowed no exceptions.
- Coats are not permitted to be worn in the school building (exception: when entering or leaving the building or when there is a defect in the heating system)
- Coats are defined as items that are normally associated with outdoor wear and/or worn over indoor clothing for protection from outside elements.

(9) Accessories

- Headwear is not to be worn by any student while in the school building.
- This includes hats, ball caps, wool hats, beanies, bandanas, do-rags and skull caps.
- Body piercing (except for the ear) that is visible is strictly prohibited. (no brow, lip, or nose piercings)
- Gauges/industrials are not permitted in ears or any other area.
- Large, long and/or heavy chains, studded or chained accessories are prohibited including wallet or belt chains.
- Sunglasses indoors are prohibited

(10) Special Situations

If a student cannot comply with the standardized dress code based on religious belief, vertical disability or by the request of a doctor, a parent or guardian may write a letter explaining the situation to the principal with a copy to the Director of Schools. Each case will be evaluated on an individual case by case basis and if the parents and student are not satisfied an appeal may be sent to the Director of Schools.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-4215; TCA 49-1-302(2)(j)

Cross References:

Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316