

Carter County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Dress Code	Descriptor Code: 6.310	Issued Date: 04/19/18
		Rescinds: 6.310	Issued: 05/18/17

Students shall dress and groom in a clean, neat, and modest manner so as not to distract or interfere with the operation of the school.

More specific guidelines appropriate for each level of school (elementary, middle, junior high and senior high) shall be developed by the director of schools.¹ Principals and appropriate faculty shall be involved in the development of each set of guidelines.

When a student is dressed in a manner which is likely to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school, or in a manner that violates the developed guidelines, the principal shall take appropriate action, which may include suspension.

In keeping with the educational purpose of this school district, students are expected to dress and groom themselves as individuals with a sense of responsibility. The district's dress code is established to teach hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards and provide a positive learning environment. Each student is expected to keep his/her person and his/her clothing clean and neat. It is expected that each student, while exercising the right to dress and groom himself/herself in an individual way, will also show, through his appearance, a high degree of respect for the standards of decency, cleanliness and style acceptable to the school. The administration has discretion in determining the appropriateness of dress. If it is determined that the dress or grooming of a student is inappropriate, the student will be sent home or removed to an alternate setting. Any class time missed during the time the student has gone home to change will be unexcused.

A partial list of guidelines include:

1. Shirts, blouses or sweaters, pants/dresses and shoes must be worn at all times.
2. Pants must be worn at the waist. No sagging allowed. The practice of "sagging" is considered to be gang related symbolism and will not be tolerated.
3. No head apparel, including caps, hats, headbands, bandannas, toboggans, hoods, or hair stockings will be worn in the building.
4. Clothing shall fit properly and shall not be unreasonably tight or unreasonably baggy.
5. Shorts, skirts, and dresses, cannot be any shorter than three (3) inches above the knee. Dresses must completely cover the shoulders. Holes in pants revealing skin should not be any higher than three (3) inches above the knee.

6. No spaghetti straps, tank tops or muscle shirts are permitted. Bare midriffs, bare shoulders or backs, and excessively low cut clothing, along with clothing made of see-through material is prohibited. The midriff area must be fully covered at all times.
 7. Hair styles, hair color, sideburns, and mustaches must be in good taste, clean and well groomed.
 8. Clothing that exhibits written, pictorial or implied references to illegal substances, drugs or alcohol, negative slogans, vulgarities, or that which attracts undue attention is prohibited.
 9. Prohibited items include: (1) long, large and/or heavy chains (2) studded or chained accessories (3) blankets and (4) sunglasses, except for health purposes.
 10. Leotards, body suits, biking or jogging shorts, pajamas, bedroom shoes, and skintight outer materials such as spandex are not appropriate. Leggings and yoga type pants are permissible with a top that appropriately covers the student.
 11. For the safety of the school population, trench coats and dusters will not be allowed.
 12. Facial jewelry shall be limited to the ears only with the exception of one small stud type piercing in the nose only. No other piercings will be allowed.
 13. Backpacks/book bags must be clear or mesh only. Exceptions will be managed by the principal.
- The principal may make exceptions to the above dress code during special occasions such as holidays, special performances, or during certain classes such as physical education, vocational classes, and science labs. Exceptions may be made for medical or religious reasons.

Legal References

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

Cross References

Discipline Procedures 6.313
Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316