

# Bedford County Board of Education

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

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

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

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

## 14 **Implementation Details**

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

## 17 **II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

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

## 24 **Pants, jeans, legging, shorts, skirts, or dresses**

- 25 1. Pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, skirts, or dresses are permitted.
- 26 2. Pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, skirts must be worn at the waist without "sagging". Pant  
27 length should not extend to below the shoe.
- 28 3. Leggings must not be worn as pants or primary cover. They must be covered with  
29 acceptable length shorts, tops, dresses or skirts.
- 30 4. Shorts, dresses, skirts, and tops worn with/or without leggings must extend below the  
31 fingertip when student is standing straight, relaxed and flat footed.

## 1           **Outerwear**

2           Lightweight outerwear garments are permitted in the building.

3           “Hoodies” are considered as allowable outerwear; however at no time may hoods be worn on  
4           the head inside the school building.

5           Heavy coats are allowed to be worn to school but must be stored in lockers after arrival. Heavy  
6           outerwear may not be worn during the school day.

## 7           **Attire for Special Occasions**

8           1. The principals of individual schools may allow exceptions to the Student Dress Code for  
9           school-wide activities up to ten (10) school days per year. Such exceptions would include a  
10          particular mode of attire for special occasion days such as School Spirit Week or for  
11          particular school-sponsored or school-related activities during the course of the school day.

12          2. In addition, principals will have the authority to approve occasional variations from the  
13          Student Dress Code for recognized school activities as deemed appropriate.

## 14          **Footwear**

15          Footwear must be worn at all times. Laces on shoes must be tied. No skate shoes or house  
16          shoes are allowed.

## 17          **III. DRESS CODE PROHIBITIONS**

18          *(These restrictions do not apply to non-mandatory after-school activities such as athletic events.)*

19          A. Leisure pants, jogging pants, sweatpants and athletic shorts are not permissible.

20          B. Ripped, torn clothing or clothing with visible holes is prohibited. In addition, no see-through  
21          clothing is to be worn. Stressed and excessively frayed jeans are not allowed.

22          C. Logos or manufacturers’ trademarks with writing or images of substances that are illegal for  
23          teens (i.e. drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) or are otherwise offensive, lewd, indecent,  
24          vulgar, obscene, profane, gang-related or constitute racial or ethnic slurs may not be worn.  
25          This prohibition applies to all school activities.

26          D. Tattoos that display drugs, alcohol or tobacco products, or gang or sex-related words or images  
27          must not be visible.

28          E. Chains and spiked accessories are not permissible. Belts may not hang down as a “tail” from  
29          the belt loop.

30          F. Head coverings and sunglasses are not to be worn.

31          G. The wearing of jewelry in any visible piercing other than the ear is prohibited during school  
32          time or school functions.

33          H. Anything that is deemed by school administration to be a disruption in the classroom.

## 34          **IV. COMPLIANCE**

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

1 *compliance with dress code requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the dress*  
2 *code, discipline is appropriate. The following discipline procedures will apply:*

3 **A. First Offense**

- 4
- 5 1. A student whose clothing or accessories violate the Student Dress Code shall be  
6 referred to the office for remediation and/or punishment.
  - 7 2. Repeated violations of the student dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior  
8 and/or defiance of school authority and may result in in-school suspension or out-of-  
9 school suspension as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Due  
10 Process. (Bedford County OSS involves attending Bedford County Learning Academy  
11 located in the old Harris annex.)

12

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

14 Schools will provide reasonable accommodation to students whose religious beliefs, medical  
15 condition or disability requires special clothing.

16 To request such accommodation:

- 17
- 18 • Parents must obtain a copy of this policy and an exemption form from their school. The  
19 exemption form must be completed by the parent and returned to the school. The school will  
20 forward this information to Supervisor of Student Services.
  - 21 • The Supervisor of Student Services will review the exemption request. The parent will be  
22 notified in writing of the status of the request within ten (10) days.
  - 23 • To appeal, the parent may request a meeting with the Supervisor of Student Services. Based  
24 upon the outcome of that meeting, the Supervisor of Student Services will notify the parent in  
25 writing of the status of the request within five (5) days.
  - 26 • A further appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to Policy 6.305-  
*Complaints & Grievances.*

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

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

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