

**Policy**

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DRESS AND GROOMING

The Ventnor Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the pupil's personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools. Inappropriate dress is that which may be disruptive to the educational process; that is, distracts students from their work or may be considered potentially dangerous or harmful.

In most instances if students dress appropriately, they perform better in school; therefore, a distinction between school clothes and play clothes must be made. The following dress standards are designed to serve these purposes and are expected to be followed.

- A. Shirts advertising alcoholic beverages, tobacco or those with obscene or questionable printing on them are not to be worn in school.
- B. Outerwear such as coats, hats, scarves and bandanna headwear are not to be worn in school.
- C. Tank tops for boys and halter tops for girls are unacceptable; mid-riffs as well as "see through" clothing are also considered to be inappropriate. Both types of clothing items should not be worn to school.
- D. Students must wear pants on their hips or waist only.
- E. Clothing that is ragged or soiled should not be worn to school.
- F. Shoes such as beach sandals and/or high-heeled shoes should not be worn to school.
- G. Dress shorts are permitted throughout the year, weather permitting, as determined by the school administration. The following type of shorts are not permitted: any type of bathing suit, running or jogging shorts, cut-offs, spandex or bicycle shorts.
- H. Jewelry and make-up should be used in moderation.

Any standard of dress that would need separate consideration will be at the principal's discretion.

The following procedures are to be followed for those students whose dress habits are inappropriate:

- A. Teacher and/or administrator talks to student regarding inappropriate dress. If flagrant, the student's parents will be notified to bring in a change of clothing.
- B. Repeated offenses will warrant parent a conference with the building principal.
- C. All incidents must be documented by the teachers and forwarded to the appropriate building principal.

In order to encourage students to dress appropriately, staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes towards neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty and good sense in attire and appearance.

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DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

Revised: November 27, 1990  
Revised: March 8, 1994  
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Readopted: June 11, 2011  
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Key Word:

Dress Code, Gangs

**Legal References**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-7	Legislative findings and declarations
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-8	Adoption of dress codes by boards of Education; uniforms required; request For code by principal, staff, parents
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-9	Adoption of dress code policy prohibiting Wearing of clothing indicating Membership in certain gangs
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-1	Submission of pupils to authority

**Cross References:**

*5131	Conduct/discipline
*5131.5	Vandalism/violence
*5142	Safety
*5145.4	Equal educational opportunity
*6141.2	Recognition of religious beliefs and customs

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.