

# Knox County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

**Dress Code**

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## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

The standards for elementary school dress reflect "common sense" and a concern for each child's comfort, safety, cleanliness, and sense of modesty. There is a strong relationship between neat, appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. Apparel or appearance which tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation must be avoided.

To help create the best learning environment for elementary students, the following standards for student dress must be observed in all Knox County Elementary Schools:

1. Pants must not sag below the waist and must be at a safe length.
2. Head apparel, except for religious or medical reasons, must not be worn inside the school building.
3. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor or outdoor physical activity.
4. Clothing or accessories may not display offensive, vulgar language or images and must not advertise products which students may not legally purchase.
5. For students in Grades 3-5, "short shorts", mini-skirts, and skin-tight outer materials such as spandex are inappropriate attire.
6. For students in Grades 3-5, shirts, blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, and shoulders, and shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts with no midriff visible.

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire and appearance are within the acceptable limits. In matters of opinion, the judgment of the principal/designee shall prevail.

The principal may allow exceptions for school-wide programs or special classroom activities.

The teachers and the principal will administer appropriate consequences for policy infractions.

This policy does not preclude individual schools from piloting alternative dress policies or standards with permission from the Director of Schools and the Board of Education after extensive consultation with parents, teachers, and students. Any deviation from the system-wide policy must be submitted in writing to the elementary director for review and recommendation to the Director of Schools and the Board of Education.

## **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

The following expectations for student dress have been established to promote a safe and optimum learning environment.

1 Apparel or appearance which tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation  
2 must be avoided. In matters of opinion, the judgement of the principal/designee shall prevail.  
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4 The following standards will be observed in all Knox County Middle and High Schools:  
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- 6 1. Pants must be worn at the waist. No sagging allowed.
- 7 2. Shirts, blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, shoulders and  
8 must have sleeves. Shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts  
9 with no midriff visible. Low-cut blouses, shirts, or tops or extremely tight tops, tube  
10 tops, or any top that exposes cleavage are prohibited.
- 11 3. Head apparel, except for religious or medical purposes, must not be worn inside the  
12 school building.
- 13 4. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity.
- 14 5. Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, patches, jewelry, and notebooks must not  
15 display (1) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, (2) gang affiliations, (3) vulgar, subversive,  
16 or sexually suggestive language or images; nor, should they promote products which  
17 students may not legally buy; such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.
- 18 6. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be beyond fingertip length.
- 19 7. Sleepwear, pajamas, and/or blankets cannot be worn in school.
- 20 8. Prohibited items include (1) large, long and/or heavy chains, (2) studded or chained  
21 accessories, (3) sunglasses, except for health purposes, (4) sleepwear, and (5) skin-tight  
22 outer materials such as spandex.  
23

24 The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the  
25 limits of decency and modesty.  
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27 The principal may allow exceptions in special circumstances or occasions such as holidays or special  
28 performances and may further prescribe dress in certain classes such as physical education, vocational  
29 classes, and science labs.  
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31 Any student not attired in accordance with the policy shall be subject to the following consequences:  
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- 33 1. Correct the violation or spend the remainder of the day in in-school suspension (ISS).
- 34 2. Repeat offenders shall be subject to additional measures which include parent  
35 conferences, in- school suspension, and out-of-school suspensions as described in the  
36 county-wide discipline policy.  
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38 This policy does not preclude individual schools from implementing standardized dress policies with  
39 permission from the Director of Schools and the Board of Education after extensive consultation with  
40 parents, teachers, and students. Any deviation from the system-wide policy must be submitted in  
41 writing to the middle and high school directors for review and recommendation to the Director of  
42 Schools and the Board of Education.<sup>1</sup>  
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49 Legal Reference:

- 49 1. School Uniform and Policy/Procedures Manual  
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