

POLICY

Black Horse Pike Regional Board of Education

Section: Students

5511. DRESS AND GROOMING

Date Created: October, 1988

Date Edited: December, 2017

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The Board of Education recognizes the right of parents and pupils to select appropriate clothing to be worn to school by pupils. For the most part, over the years these selections have been in good taste and have contributed to personal and school pride essential to learning.

The Board has a responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of pupils in the school and to maintain the environment conducive to the educational process. To that end, the Board establishes the following rules and regulations for those who need direction in determining what constitutes appropriate school and field trip attire. Implementation and enforcement of the dress code will be gender neutral in its application.

1. Clothing must be clean, in good repair, and worn neatly.
2. Safe footwear is required. Pupils may not go barefoot or in stocking feet. Specific footwear may be required for certain courses (physical education, shops, science labs, etc.).
3. Hats, bandannas, headbands, and any other headwear deemed inappropriate or disruptive by the administration must be removed upon entering the school building. Exceptions may be made for specific religious reasons (yarmulke, hijab, etc.). Hair bands used to control hair are acceptable.
4. Clothing must cover the shoulders and backs, chest, torso, and leg at the mid-thigh level. Clothing must cover undergarments and must not be see-through. Clothing which causes a disruption or distraction may not be worn. Examples of this type of clothing include, but may not be limited to the following: tube tops, tank tops, halter tops, see-through tops, bare back or midriff tops, fishnet or mesh tops. Further, pupils are permitted to wear shorts and skirts; however, the length must be no shorter than the mid-thigh level as stated above.
5. Pupils are prohibited from wearing any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the pupil has membership in, affiliation with, or promotion of any gang associated with criminal activity. Obscene, indecent, or suggestive graphics and/or messages are not permitted. The same applies to messages favoring substance abuse, illegal activities, violence, firearms, or intolerance.
6. Sunglasses may not be worn in the building unless prescribed by a physician. Prescription lenses, which darken with increased light, are acceptable.
7. Coats, jackets, are to be stored in pupil lockers during the school day.
8. Students who wear a hooded shirt, hooded sweatshirt or other article of clothing in such a way as to conceal his/her identity will be subject to disciplinary action and prohibited from

wearing a hooded shirt, hooded sweatshirt or similar apparel until further notice.

9. Undergarments and sleepwear may not be worn as outer clothing at any time. This includes pants that are worn low to expose undergarments.
10. Chain belts, cleated shoes, sharp jewelry, and other items which pose a danger to others or to school property are prohibited.
11. Proper protective clothing is required in shop and laboratory areas as directed by teachers, including, but not limited to, headgear, coveralls, smocks, aprons, shoes, and safety goggles or glasses.
12. Specific attire will be required to participate in Physical Education activity classes. Jewelry, including body piercing, may not be worn in physical education classes. Medical bracelets may be worn. Religious medals may be worn, but must be taped to the body and worn under the gym clothing. Failure to comply with the clothing requirement will result in exclusion from the activity, which will affect the pupil's grade.

The final decision for suitability for attire rests with the building administrators. A vice-principal's decision may be appealed to the building principal. The administration further reserves the right to determine if any article of clothing creates, or has the potential to create, a significant disruption or distraction to the school's learning environment.

For special dress or spirit days, the school principal may waive one or more of these rules and regulations.

When a pupil's attire does not comply with these rules and regulations, teachers shall send a pupil to the designated vice-principal's office. When appropriate, the vice-principal shall contact the parents/guardians of the pupil to require proper attire be brought to the school for the pupil as soon as possible. For repeat offenders, the vice-principal may invoke disciplinary measures such as administrative after school detention, full day detention, out-of-school suspension and/or issuing misconduct discipline points.

This policy shall be reviewed annually in accordance with a process developed by the school principal. Recommendations for changes shall be submitted to the superintendent for consideration by the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1;18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 27 October 1988

Revised: 27 February 1997

Revised: 20 August 1990

Revised: 20 September 2001

Revised: 26 May 2005

Revised: 9 April 2009

Revised: 27 October 2011

Revised: 15 May 2014

Revised: 14 December 2017