

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Clinton Township Board of Education recognizes that the student dress code should support equitable educational access and should not reinforce stereotypes. Each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the student's personal style and individual preferences. Student dress code and administrative enforcement should not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, household income, gender identity or cultural observance.

Guiding Principles and Beliefs

- 1) All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of discipline.
- 2) All students and staff should respect that personal appearance is an individual expression and not a topic for comment and/or criticism.
- 3) Teaching staff members are responsible for teaching and should not be burdened with dress code enforcement.
- 4) Students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have the right to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the educational programs of the schools.

The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the educational programs of the schools.

Rules and Regulations

- 1) The Board authorizes the Superintendent to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress and grooming practices which:
 - Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or of others in the school;
 - Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
 - Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
 - Prevent the student from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement;
 - Contain language or symbols depictive of a sexual nature, of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, violence or gangs or any other language or image that is not appropriate for the learning environment;
 - Contain any obscene writing, or promotes suggestive, indecent or unacceptable school behavior whether stated or implied;
 - Are directly offensive to any group based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, disability, or political views.



Allowable Dress & Grooming

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt (or the equivalent) and shoes.
- Shirts and dresses must contain fabric in the front and on the sides.
- Clothing must cover undergarments, waistbands, and bra straps excluded.
- Fabric covering all private parts must not be see-through.
- Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff. Hoodies must allow the student's face and ears to be visible to staff.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, woodshop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

Enforcement & Intent

- The administrative staff may modify the dress code for specific school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored events.
- The building principal or their designee shall determine whether the dress of an individual interferes with the school programs and/or creates disorder by violating the dress code.
- When enforcing the school dress code, staff members and administrators shall take reasonable measures to address the student in private.
- Students who violate the school dress code will remove the items and/or replace them with either clothing they have with them or clothing that the school will loan them. If no clothing is available, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be contacted to request other clothing.
- Individuals are entitled to their own opinions on the student dress code, but not all instances related to the CTSD dress code will result in a disciplinary response.
- The intent of this policy is to keep our students safe and focused upon their academic experience.

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

Adopted: 26 July 2010

