

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The policy of the Evangeline Parish School Board shall be that no mode of attire will be considered proper for school wear that disrupts the classroom and/or the school's positive learning environment. The principal or his/her designee of each school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided.

The Board desires to teach each student to use good judgment in his/her total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the purpose of the school. Cleanliness and the values of the community shall be a basic consideration.

DRESS AND PERSONAL GROOMING

Student dress and grooming are not to adversely affect the students' participation in classes, school programs, and other school-related activities or detract from the learning environment of the school. Extremes in style and fit in student dress and extremes in style of grooming will not be permitted. Administrators are authorized to use their discretion in determining extremes in styles of dress and grooming and what is appropriate and suitable for school wear. No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures. Beards and goatees shall be prohibited. Hair must be of natural colors. Fluorescent and/or rainbow colors are prohibited. Policies regarding dress and grooming stress the importance of reducing distractions that inhibit learning and are addressed as an attempt to enhance the learning environment.

BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

Body armor shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

The School Board shall notify all students of the provisions of this policy.

UNIFORMS

All students are mandated to wear the official parish uniform unless the *School Dress Code Review Committee* has made an exemption. A request for exemption to the policy must be made in writing to the Superintendent.

The uniform top shall be a collared white, gray, or navy blue polo or oxford shirt, short or long-sleeved. The parish logo shall be optional on shirts. If the logo is worn, it shall be displayed on the left side below the shoulder. Not other emblems shall be allowed. Tee shirts shall not be part of the official uniform. White undershirts, long or short sleeves, or undershirts of the same uniform color will be acceptable. Spirit shirts may be worn only on spirit days as announced by the principal.

The uniform bottom shall be navy or khaki cotton twill. Girls shall be permitted to wear navy or khaki jumpers, skirts, shorts, and skorts in all grades. Jumpers, skirts, shorts, and skorts shall not exceed four (4) inches above the bend of the knee. Capri pants shall be acceptable. Hip huggers shall not be permitted. All bottoms shall be worn at the waistline with shirts tucked in. Pants or shorts shall have belt loops except in grades Pre-k through third (3rd) also. Belts shall be black, brown or of uniform colors, including white. Oversized belt buckles shall not be permitted (standard buckles only). Baggy or oversized clothes shall not be permitted. Pants shall not have pockets on lower legs or upper thighs (cargo). Standard back and side pockets shall be allowed. Shoes shall be required. Footwear should not be a safety hazard. Slides, slippers, crocs, and flip flops shall not be permitted. Sandals shall have a back strap. Boots are to be worn under the pant legs; pant legs must cover the top portion of boots. Socks shall be black, white, or of uniform colors. Blue jeans shall not be permitted.

All jackets, including sweatshirts, shall open in the front. Flannel or button-down dress shirts shall not be worn as jackets.

The following items shall not be allowed: clothing, symbols, pins, or other items displaying controlled substances; items displaying inappropriate words or pictures that are derogatory to any ethnic group; or anything intended to cause disruption of any school, class, or activity shall not be allowed.

Caps (baseball) may be allowed in grades Pre-K through fourth (4th). Students in grades five (5) through twelve (12) shall be allowed to wear caps in welding and industrial arts courses, where required. Students with medical problems shall be permitted to wear caps if the principal approves. Bandannas shall not be permitted. "Doo" rags shall not be permitted.

Jewelry shall not be worn during physical education activities or athletic activities. Earrings shall be prohibited for male students. Nose rings and jewelry worn in body piercing shall be strictly prohibited, except in the ears of females.

Males shall be clean-shaven. Only well-groomed, trimmed moustaches may be permitted. Male students shall not be allowed to wear nail polish or makeup. Afros shall be measured from the scalp and shall not exceed two (2) inches. Long hair shall not pass the bottom of the shirt collar and must be above the eyebrows (boys only).

APPEAL PROCESS

Deviation from the above dress code for medical, religious, handicapping and/or any other extenuating circumstances can only be granted by the *School Dress Code Review Committee*. This committee shall be composed of the Superintendent or his/her designee, the Policy Supervisor, the Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisor, the Drug Free/Violence Free Schools Supervisor, and the Special Education Director/designee.

A request for an appeal hearing shall be made in writing to the Superintendent, stating the reason for the deviation. A hearing date shall be set within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the request, and an answer to the appeal shall be rendered in writing within ten (10) working days after the hearing. A copy of the decision shall also be sent to the principal of the school in question. The determination of this committee shall be final.

Persons making the request for an appeal shall be prepared to present written documentation supporting their reason for the deviation. The type of documentation required shall be listed in the letter to them, which states the date of the hearing.

Ref: Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt; 460 F. 2d 609 (5th Cir. 1972); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.9, 17:81, 17:416.7. EPSB: Revised 05/05/10