WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION **FILE CODE: 5132**
Woodbridge, New Jersey

Policy

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

It is the intention of the Woodbridge Township Board of Education to insure that all students recognize the need to be appropriately dressed each time they enter the school building. All students are encouraged to dress in a way that is in good taste and is appropriate for school. Appropriate dress would be the type attire which would identify the serious and important nature of the educational process. Not only should appropriate student dress be clean and neat but it should not make a statement which would offend good judgment, be in poor taste, incite others, and may not be a disruptive influence, present a threat to safety and health, or violate the law.

Appropriate dress for students can only be achieved with the total cooperation of students, parents, and guardians. In order to achieve good taste in student dress, the board of education appeals to parents to insure that they purchase appropriate school attire for their children and supervise what they wear to school.

A. Regulations:

Regulating student dress shall be the responsibility of the administration of each school. The teacher is to play a most important role in regulating student dress and is required to refer a student to the office whenever an individual's attire may interfere with the educational process.

1. Any clothing which is excessively tight or which displays nudity, such as sheer or transparent blouses or shirts shall not be permitted. Tank tops, halters, and tube tops are not permitted. Clothing on the upper body must cover the chest and midriff at all times.
2. Any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that a student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities is prohibited on school property.
3. Clothing on the lower body must cover the genitalia and buttocks at all times.
4. Bedroom and sleep attire, such as pajama tops and/or bottoms, will not be permitted.
5. Footwear is required and must have some sort of back to keep it on the wearer. Footwear that can easily come off or poses a safety hazard, such as cleated shoes, shoes with wheels, slippers, sandals, flip-flops or excessively high heels are not permitted.
6. Any article of clothing which displays indecent, inappropriate, or offensive writing, pictures, or slogans shall not be permitted.
7. "Quasi-attire," such as armbands, wristbands, non-functional headbands, bandanas, buttons, pins or other methods of symbolic expression are not permitted if determined by the teacher or principal to cause disruption, disorder, or a clear and present danger. Clothing which displays words or pictures that depict alcohol, drugs, or articles of clothing or jewelry associated with gangs, shall not be worn.
8. Any article of clothing or jewelry considered to be harmful, or which may cause damage to another student's person or property, such as spiked bracelets and/or necklaces, shall not be permitted.
9. Clothing which is excessively worn, ripped, damaged, or soiled shall not be permitted.
10. Hats are never to be worn inside the school building, except where such use is pursuant to the observance of religious beliefs.
11. Sunglasses may not be worn in school by students unless a medical excuse has been filed with the office.
12. Outerwear, such as coats and jackets, shall not be worn during the school day. Exceptions may be made by the building administration.
13. Safety and protective clothing, as well as athletic or gym clothing, shall be worn as required.
14. Book bags (backpacks) may be used by students to and from school and must be stored in a locker during the school day.
15. Students attending any school functions (field trips, dances, activities during school hours) will not be permitted to participate unless they are properly attired.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING (continued)

16. The administration reserves the right to determine if any article of clothing is inappropriate for school.

B. Enforcement:

Students not conforming to the dress code shall be disciplined by the administration in accordance with other board policies. If any employee has concerns about a student's attire, they should notify the administration immediately.

C. Distribution:

A copy of this dress code shall be distributed to all students by publication in the student handbook as well as on our district website.

Adopted:	June 5, 1973
Revised:	December 21, 1978; December 8, 1988; March 21, 1991; July 15, 2004; September 21, 2006; January 17, 2008, July 14, 2014; March 12, 2026
NJSBA review/Update:	December 2011
Readopted:	August 21, 2014

Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

Possible Cross References;

*5131	Student conduct and discipline
*5142	Student safety

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