Lauderdale County Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in October	**Dress Code**	**6.310**	**10/06/16**
		Rescinds: **6.310**	Issued: **09/28/26 08/07/25**

Lauderdale County Board of Education recognizes and understands that there is a strong correlation between appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. To help create not only the best learning environment, but also the safest, the following expectations for student dress have been established. Apparel or appearance that tends to draw attention to an individual rather than the education process and learning environment must be avoided. The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty or if it is drawing undue attention thereby interfering with the learning environment. In matters of opinion, the judgment of the principal/designee shall prevail.

When, in the opinion of the principal/designee, a student is not attired appropriately or exhibits grooming which constitutes a distraction and/or disturbance to the extent of being detrimental to the school environment, the principal/designee shall contact the parents and have the student dress suitably before returning to school. Inability to contact the parents will result in the student remaining in the office and/or being placed in in-school suspension or another designated area. This will serve as first warning. Repeat offenses will follow the school discipline code at the next level.

All clothing must not have holes, be cut-off, ripped, or see-through and must be sized to fit. Patches are allowed as long as no skin is showing. Shirts/blouses, coats/jackets/sweaters may be any color or combination of colors.

School colors are as follows:

Ripley Middle, Ripley High, Ripley Primary and Ripley Elementary: *Purple and white*

Halls High, Halls Junior High and Halls Elementary: *Black and gold*

A. Shirts/Blouses:

- May have a collar - either polo, turtleneck, dress shirt with collar, or button-down collar
- Shirts/blouses may be any color or combination of colors.
- Must have no logo other than a small brand or school logo no larger than the size of a credit card.
- Crew neck shirts in any color/combination of colors may be worn.
- Shirts must have sleeves either short sleeves, ¾ length or long sleeves.
- Shirts should completely cover the back, belly and abdomen. They should cover the waistband of pants, shorts and skirts.

B. Pants, Shorts and Skirts or Jumpers:

- Pants, shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be a solid color.
- Pants/shorts must be worn at the waist and the body must be covered.
- A belt must be worn and buckled if the garment has belt loops *(this is encouraged but not required for PreK to 2nd grade)*
- Sagging, bagging, and skintight fit is not allowed.
- There is to be no writing or design other than a small brand logo.
- Shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be 4" above the knee *(this also applies to slits in skirts or dresses)*.
- No holes will be allowed in pants or shorts. Patches are approved as long as no skin is showing.
- Tights/leggings are not allowed to be worn as "stand-alone" bottoms; however, they may be worn under dresses, skirts or jumpers.

C. Footwear:

- Is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity
- Must be laced, tied, strapped or hooked (Crocks and Birkenstock style shoes are acceptable.)
- Tennis shoes or closed toed shoes must be worn on the playground and in physical education classes.
- Sandals are permitted.
- Spiked heels, rubber flip-flops, bedroom slippers, slides or house-shoes are not permitted.

D. Coats/Jackets/Sweaters:

- Jackets and cardigan style sweaters may be a solid color or a combination of colors .
- School organizations or club jackets are acceptable.
- Trench coats are not permitted.
- Heavy coats may be worn to and from school. Upon arrival, they must be placed in designated areas, such as lockers, cubbies or backpacks. **Exceptions** to this may be permitted in extremely cold weather, during equipment malfunction situations, or when changing classes if going from one building to another.
- Lightweight jackets or cardigan style sweaters may be worn unbuttoned or unzipped.
- Pullover hoodies are not permitted. No hoods will be allowed in the building.
- Pullovers, such as sweat shirts, ¼ zip and ¾ zip are allowed. Writing on sweatshirts must follow the logo sizing of being no larger than a credit card unless it is school spirit wear approved.

E. Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, belt buckles, jewelry, tattoos, brands and notebooks must not contain:

- Racial or ethnic slurs or symbols
- Gang affiliations
- Vulgar, obscene, subversive, disruptive of the school environment, derogatory to any individual, or sexually suggestive language or images
- Promotions of products that students may not legally buy such as alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, controlled substances, weapons or weapon products.

F. The following are prohibited:

- Large, long, and/or heavy chains
- Studded or chained accessories
- Sunglasses, except for health purposes (a prescription will be required)
- Facial jewelry or grills
- Head apparel, except for required hats
- Sweat pants, joggers and wind suits
- Hair rollers, hair picks and combs worn in the hair
- Facial drawings
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) glasses
- Tank tops, tops with spaghetti straps are not allowed.
- Low-cut tops/blouses are not allowed.
- Blankets
- Headphones/ear buds cannot be worn as part of dress during school hours

G. Extracurricular activity uniforms may be worn on designated days approved by the principal.

H. Pre-approved school sponsored shirts may be worn on any school day. "Spirit Wear" is defined as a shirt sold only by school-sponsored organizations such as booster clubs, student clubs, and sports teams. "Spirit Wear" must be pre-approved by the building principal before being sold. "Spirit Wear" shirts must be appropriate in size and fit according to provisions of this dress code policy.

I. ROTC, FFA and nursing uniforms may be worn on designated days when approved by the principal.

J. The principal may allow exceptions for school wide program or special classroom activities up to ten (10) days per year.

K. Students new to Lauderdale County Schools have five (5) school days to be in compliance with the dress code.

L. Students in grades 6-12 must wear their school-issued ID badge at all times during the school day. Badges must be worn on their person either by a clip or with a lanyard. It is not permissible to have a badge attached to a purse or backpack.

Exemptions

A parent who objects to standardized dress because of his or her religion or religious beliefs doctrine stipulates certain attire must obtain a copy of the policy on Standard Dress, a Request for Exemption Application and an Exemption Questionnaire, and return them to school. The principal shall review the documents and accept or deny the request or exemption.

The principal must accept or deny the request within two (2) school days. If the principal denies the request, he or she must give the parent a written basis for the decision. The parent can appeal a

principal's denial of the request to the Director of Schools within two (2) school days of receiving the principal's denial. The Director of Schools must meet with the parents within five (5) school days of the receipt of the request for appeal, and must render a decision within five (5) school days of meeting with the parents. If the Director of Schools also denies the request he or she must provide a written basis for the decision.

The parent may make a final appeal to the Board of Education and ask the Board to review the written record of the request for exemption and the denials. This appeal must be made within five (5) school days of the Director of School's denial of the appeal. The Board may hold a hearing on the exemption request at its discretion. The decision of the Board is final. A student will remain in school in the dress style recommended by the parent until the appeal process is completed.

Dress Code Compliance / Consequences

First Violation:

Students will receive a verbal warning. The student will attempt to call a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school. Students will be allowed to remain in class. Students who miss class work due to the necessity of changing into clothes that meet the dress code will have until the next day to make up any missed work. It is his/her responsibility to get missed assignments from his/her teachers. A "Notice of Noncompliance" will be sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Second Violation:

The student will attempt to call a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school. If a change is not brought within one hour of contact, the student shall receive a minimum of one (1) day in ISS. A" Notice of Noncompliance" will be sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Third Violation:

The student will attempt to call a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school. If a change is not brought within one hour of contact, the student shall be assigned to ISS for two (2) days. A" Notice of Noncompliance" will be sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Fourth Violation:

The student will be suspended from school for up to ten (10) days. A" Notice of Noncompliance" will be mailed and sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Subsequent Violations:

The student may be remanded to the Alternative school (Grades 3- 12) or expelled from school. A "Notice of Noncompliance" will be mailed and sent home with the student. A conference with the parent at the school is required.