Bedford County Board of Education

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
Review: Annually, in February	**Student Dress Code**	**6.310**	**05/18/23**
		Rescinds: **6.310**	Issued: **04/19/22**

This policy is mandated for grades 6-12 and voluntary compliance for K-5 students is encouraged. It shall be uniformly implemented and enforced throughout the school system. The Student Dress Code shall be in effect during school hours and at any school activity or event at which student attendance is required. Voluntary and after-hours extracurricular activities are not subject to the dress code.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE FOR BEDFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

A) The Student Dress Code will be in effect during both the school year and summer school program.
B) Students' dress and grooming will be clean and neat. Clothes and appearances must be safe and not disruptive to the educational process.
C) Students will wear clothing of an appropriate size. Appropriate sizes are defined as being of a proportional size to the wearer (no more than one size smaller or larger).
D) The school system will not require specific brands of clothing.
E) Sleeveless shirts should have straps at least 2 inches wide.
F) Chest and midriff must be covered.
G) Lightweight outerwear garments and "hoodies" are permitted in the building.
H) Heavy coats can be worn to school but must be stored in lockers after arrival.
I) Pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, skirts, or dresses are permitted.
J) Pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, skirts must be worn at the waist without "sagging".
K) Holes (4) inches from the top of the knee must have a patch under the hole.
L) Shorts, dresses, skirts, and skorts should not be shorter than (4) inches from the top of the knee.
M) Leggings may be worn if the shirt, shorts, skirt, pants, jeans, or skorts worn with them cover at least (4) inches from the top of the knee.
N) Leisure pants, jogging pants, sweatpants, and athletic shorts are allowed. All of these must comply with the general requirements regarding to pants and shorts.
O) Footwear must always be worn. Laces on shoes must be tied.

Attire for Special Occasions

1. The principals of individual schools may allow exceptions to the Student Dress Code for school-wide activities up to ten (10) school days per year. Such exceptions would include a particular mode of attire for special occasion days such as School Spirit Week or for particular school-sponsored or school-related activities during the course of the school day.

2. In addition, principals will have the authority to approve occasional variations from the Student Dress Code for recognized school activities as deemed appropriate.

II. DRESS CODE PROHIBITIONS

A) No see through/sheer clothing is allowed.
B) Logos or manufacturers' trademarks and accessories with writing or images of substances that are illegal for teens (i.e., drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) or are gang-related or constitute racial or ethnic slurs may not be worn. This prohibition applies to all school activities.
C) Tattoos that display drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, gang or sex-related words or images must not be visible.
D) Chains and spiked accessories are not permissible.
E) Head coverings (hats, bandanas, toboggans, etc.) are not allowed.
F) Hoods on "hoodies" cannot be worn on the head inside the school building.
G) Sunglasses are not allowed.
H) The wearing of jewelry in any visible piercing other than the ear and nose is prohibited during school time or school functions.
I) Heavy outerwear may not be worn during the school day inside the building.
J) Shirts that expose a large area under the arms or expose undergarments are not allowed.
K) Halter tops and cut-off shirts are not allowed.
L) Skate shoes (with wheels) and house shoes are not allowed.

III. COMPLIANCE

When a student fails to comply with the dress code, discipline is appropriate. The following discipline procedures will apply:

A. First Offense

1. A student whose clothing or accessories violate the Student Dress Code shall be referred to the office for remediation and/or punishment.
2. Repeated violations of the student dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior and/or defiance of school authority and may result in in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Due Process.
3. **If school administration deems any clothing to be a disruption to the school environment, the student will have the opportunity to change the clothing causing the disruption. If the student cannot or refuses to change the clothing causing the disruption, school administration will refer to the Compliance section of the dress code policy.**

IV. SYSTEMWIDE DRESS CODE EXEMPTION PROCESS

Schools will provide reasonable accommodation to students whose religious beliefs, medical condition or disability requires special clothing.

To request such accommodation:

- Parents must obtain a copy of this policy and an exemption form from their school. The exemption form must be completed by the parent and returned to the school. The school will forward this information to Supervisor of Student Services.
- The Supervisor of Student Services will review the exemption request. The parent will be notified in writing of the status of the request within ten (10) days.
- To appeal, the parent may request a meeting with the Supervisor of Student Services. Based upon the outcome of that meeting, the Supervisor of Student Services will notify the parent in writing of the status of the request within five (5) days.
- A further appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to Policy 6.305- *Complaints & Grievances.*

School system or campus personnel will not discriminate against any student who has been exempted from the mandatory compliance with the standard dress code because of objections based on religious, medical or disability needs.

V. ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

In addition to the above guidelines, students attending the Alternative School will be required to comply with the following:

Pants	Pants are to be navy, black or khaki. Pants are to be worn at the waist. No undergarments are to be showing. No holes in pants.
Belts	Belts must be worn at all times and meet the guidelines above. In general, belts should be as plain as possible.
Shirts	Shirts must be a solid color polo or button down with no logos. All buttons, except for the top button, are to be buttoned at all times. Sleeves, if long, are not to be rolled up, but should be buttoned at the wrist. Undershirts are to be white only. Shirts should be tucked in at all times (belt should be visible).
Shoes	Tennis shoes are the only acceptable type/design to be worn. Shoes must be black, gray or white and shoestrings must match the color of the shoe. Shoestrings are to be tied tightly and all Velcro must be strapped. This is a safety precaution and will be enforced.
Jewelry	No jewelry, watches or sunglasses are to be worn or brought to school.
Outerwear	Jackets, coats, gloves and toboggans are allowed in cooler weather but are NOT to be worn in the halls or classrooms. These items will be checked in and hung in the designated area when a student enters the building. Likewise, they will be reissued when a student checks out in the afternoon.

VI. AUTHORITY OF THE BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board reserves the right to modify this policy as necessary. The school system reserves the right to determine what may be disruptive and unsafe.