

DRESS CODE

The dress code of the Richland Parish School Board will be to monitor a viable ordered learning environment and to prepare our students to cope with the business standards of the community.

It is a known fact that a person's appearance affects his/her attitude and behavior. Each student is entitled to an educational climate in which teaching and learning can take place, free of disruption of any kind, including distracting forms of dress and/or grooming. Therefore, the School Board feels a responsibility concerning the appearance of students in the classroom, participating in school activities, and on school trips. Traditionally, in appearance and in behavior, Richland Parish students have represented their schools with pride. To ensure continuance of such a tradition, the following requirements have been established by the School Board.

In questions regarding student dress and grooming, 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.

NOTIFICATION

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date.

If the Board adopts a uniform policy or modifies the existing uniform policy, it shall notify, in writing the parent or guardian of each student of the policy adoption or uniform policy modification at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy. Each school shall display any uniform selected for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective date for wearing of the uniform.

However, nothing shall prohibit the Board from requiring a new or revised dress code or uniform policy without the required notice in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this policy, *emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

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

ALL STUDENTS

1. Walking shorts may be worn in junior high through grade 12. Walking shorts must reach the middle of the knee when worn at the proper waistline. Shorts which do not create disturbances and substantially interfere with the work of the school may be worn in elementary grades.
2. Jogging suits and sweat pants shall not be worn in grades 4-12. Warm-ups with pockets, straight or flared bottoms may be worn.
3. Overalls shall be worn with all straps fastened over the shoulder and buttoned completely on all sides. Some type of shirt will be worn under overalls.
4. All skirts and pants shall fit at the normal waistline. Oversize clothing shall not be permitted; neither shall extremely tight clothing be permitted, as determined by the principal or his/her designee.
5. Pants legs shall not be rolled above the ankle, or cut or frayed above the ankle, and both pants legs shall be worn the same length. Belts shall be worn with all pants which have belt loops in grades 6-12.
6. Sunglasses, hats, or caps shall not be allowed at school. Hoods shall not be worn inside a building on a school campus. Caps may be brought to school as part of a school team uniform. These caps shall not be worn during the school day.
7. Clothing with holes, rips, or tears may be worn if skin is not exposed.
8. All buckles and laces shall be fastened or tied. Laces shall be worn in shoes with eyelets.
9. Students shall not wear clothing (including buttons, patches, and badges) advertising alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or drugs and/or containing inappropriate or controversial language or messages or inferences which create disturbances and substantially interfere with the work of the school or impinge on the rights of other students.
10. Hair must be neat, clean and well groomed. Scarves, rollers, pins, nets,

sweatbands or other similar head apparel shall not be worn on the head.

11. Numbers, symbols, words, patterns, or phrases shall not be worn (cut) in students' hair if deemed offensive, obscene, gang-related, or cause a disruption of the learning environment by the administration.
12. Only mesh or clear book bags can be brought to school in grades K-12.
13. No pajama pants may be worn to school.
14. Footwear shall be part of the regular attire. Shoes shall be without metal tips or cleats. Shoes with wheels shall not be worn.
15. The neck opening of a shirt shall not exceed the equivalent of the second button of a dress shirt.

MALES

1. Oversized pants are not permitted.
2. Pierced jewelry shall not be worn.
3. See-through shirts, or tank tops shall not be worn.
4. Neatly trimmed facial hair may be worn as determined by the administration.
5. Sideburns shall not extend below the bottom of the ear lobe.
6. Hair, including braids, cannot exceed the length of a collared shirt or hang longer than the eyebrow.

FEMALES

1. Leggings may only be worn under a regular dress or skirt of appropriate length.
2. All skirts and dresses must reach two inches above the knee when worn at the proper waistline.
3. Strapless dresses, low cut dresses, blouses, tank tops, tube tops, see-through clothing, or halters shall not be worn. Clothing which reveals cleavage shall not be worn. Dress straps shall be 2" wide.
4. Pant skirts and pant dresses may be worn provided they meet the dress length requirement.

5. Pierced jewelry shall not be worn other than in the ear.
6. Midriff shall not be exposed.

Revised: August, 1999
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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; Board minutes, 5-12-92, 7-7-98, 7-6-99, 7-11-00, 7-10-01, 7-13-04, 7-13-06, 7-10-07, 7-15-08, 4-7-09.