

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Dress and Grooming
Code	221
Status	Active
Adopted	June 25, 2015
Last Revised	January 26, 2017

### **Purpose**

The purpose for implementing this student uniform policy for all students in grades K through 12 is to strengthen the learning environment for classroom instruction and academic performance; prevent disruption to the educational process; prevent distraction to students, staff and the educational process; facilitate learning; increase the atmosphere for school pride and personal appearance; and enhance the image of students and the school in the community. While requiring a specific type of clothing, it is not the district's purpose to interfere with student decisions or freedom of expression. However, the safety of all students, the security of the building, and the environment in which our students learn must be the foremost objective of the district.

This uniform policy shall be in effect during the regular school year.

### **Male Students**

1. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves and be in a solid color of White, Maroon, Yellow, Gold, Black, Gray or Blue only. Pictures, patterns, designs or wording on the shirts are prohibited. Polo shirts and button-down dress shirts, long sleeve or short sleeve, are permitted.
2. Solid color sweatshirts and sweaters including crew neck, V-neck, full-length zipper, half-zipper pullover, boat neck, vest/sweater vest, and cardigan can be worn as part of a layered outfit worn with a collared shirt (which must be visible at all times). All should be in solid colors stated above. No more than two (2) buttons may be unbuttoned on any style of a collared shirt as listed above.
3. All shirts must have finished seams, including sleeves, collars, and shirt sides.
4. Small (approximately one (1) square inch) brand logos are acceptable.
5. It is recommended that students "tuck-in" tops. All tops must go to at least the waist and must not go below the mid-thigh area in length.
6. Pants are permitted in solid colors of Tan, Navy Blue or Black only. The length of the pants should not extend beyond the bottom of the shoe and should not drag on the floor. The width of the pant bottom should be no larger than the shoe size.
7. Shorts are also permitted in solid colors of Tan, Navy Blue or Black only. The hemline must be no more than two (2) inches above the knee.
8. It is recommended that a belt be worn with bottoms.
9. All bottoms must be worn at the waist. The waist is defined as the area between the bottom of the rib cage and top of the hipbone.
10. All bottoms must have a finished hem.
11. Dress shoes, boots, and sneakers (without wheels) are the only shoes permitted to be worn. Shoes must have non-skid soles, and any laces must be tied.
12. All clothing must be sized appropriately; therefore clothing must be no more than one (1) regular size larger or smaller than the student actually measures. No clothing is to be torn, revealing, or tight.

### **Female Students**

1. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves and be in a solid color of White, Maroon, Yellow, Gold, Black, Gray or Blue only. Pictures, patterns, designs or wording on the shirts are prohibited. Polo shirts, blouses and button-down dress shirts, long sleeve or short sleeve, are permitted. Tops which expose cleavage, undergarments, or waist/belly button/stomach area are prohibited.
2. Solid color sweatshirts and sweaters including crew neck, V-neck, full-length zipper, half-zipper pullover, boat neck, vest/sweater vest, and cardigan can be worn as part of a layered outfit worn with a collared shirt (which must be visible at all times). All should be in solid colors stated above. No more than two (2) buttons may be unbuttoned on any style of a collared shirt as listed above.
3. All shirts must have finished seams, including sleeves, collars, and shirt sides.
4. Small (approximately one (1) square inch) brand logos are acceptable.
5. It is recommended that students "tuck-in" tops. All tops must go to at least the waist and must not go below the mid-thigh area in length.

6. Pants are permitted in solid colors of Tan, Navy Blue or Black only. The length of the pants should not extend beyond the bottom of the shoe and should not drag on the floor. The width of the pant bottom should be no larger than the shoe size.
7. Jumpers, skirts, shorts, capris and skorts are also permitted in solid colors of Tan, Navy Blue or Black only. The hemline must be no more than two (2) inches above the knee. The length of a long skirt should not extend beyond the bottom of the shoe and should not drag on the floor.
8. It is recommended that a belt be worn with bottoms.
9. All bottoms must be worn at the waist. The waist is defined as the area between the bottom of the rib cage and top of the hipbone.
10. All bottoms must have a finished hem.
11. Dress shoes, boots, and sneakers (without wheels) are the only shoes permitted to be worn. Shoes must have non-skid soles, and any laces must be tied.
12. All clothing must be sized appropriately; therefore, clothing must be no more than one (1) regular size larger or smaller than the student actually measures. No clothing is to be torn, revealing, or tight.
13. All jumpers must be worn with an approved collared top. Jumpers must be a solid color, the appropriate length and have a finished hem.
14. Any color sock is permitted. Leggings, tights, leotards, etc., are recommended under jumpers, skirts and skorts and must be in a solid color.

#### Prohibited

Hooded tops or "hoodies" are prohibited. Hooded tops or "hoodies" may be worn as outerwear but must be placed in lockers upon arrival to school.

Outerwear/outdoor clothing is not permitted once classes begin. This includes North Face jackets, Columbia, etc.

All sheer (see through) blouses are prohibited.

Fringes and holes are prohibited.

Cargo shorts or pants are prohibited.

Clothing that is torn, revealing (including slits), or tight is considered to be inappropriate school attire.

Clothing that promotes drugs, alcohol, weapons, or is offensive either by racial or sexual reference is prohibited.

Sandals, flip-flops, open toe and open back shoes are prohibited.

Wearing an oversize/draping shirt hanging at the knee area, touching the knee, or below the knee is prohibited.

Draping articles of clothing, towels, or other objects out of pants or shorts pockets is not permitted.

Tops which expose cleavage, undergarments, or waist/belly button/stomach area are prohibited.

Denim (jeans) of any type or color is prohibited. This includes denim look-alike apparel.

Students are not permitted to wear leggings/jeggings as pants.

Students are not permitted to wear pajama bottoms, yoga pants, athletic style pants and shorts. Students are not permitted to wear sweat pants/jogging pants or sweat shorts. The materials in these items may include, but are not limited to, fleece, stretch knits, cotton, nylon, spandex and velour.

Wearing bottoms that expose skin or undergarments is prohibited.

Wearing oversized, draping baggy style pants to create a "sag" look is prohibited.

Fishnet or ripped-up stockings are not permitted.

No head coverings are permitted. This includes but is not limited to caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, wave caps, sweatbands, skullcaps, sunglasses, headsets, or any other head covering.

Combs, rakes, or picks should not be worn in the hair.

Any gang attire, symbols, signs, tattoos, hairstyles, or other evidence of membership in, or affiliation with, recruitment of, or desire to be affiliated with any gang is prohibited.

#### Jewelry and Accessories

Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not to be worn to school. This includes but is not limited to jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, spiked dog collars, chained wallets, two (2) or three (3) finger rings that are connected, and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist.

Chains and sharp objects such as spikes are not allowed on clothing or book bags.

Students may not wear tinted glasses or sunglasses.

### Religious Exemption

Requests for exemptions from the dress code based upon one's religion or religious beliefs must be made at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance in writing to the principal. The letter must include an explanation of why the religion/religious belief prevents compliance with the dress code.

### Other Exemptions

Students may be exempted from the dress code if it is written into an IEP or if a doctor determines it is necessary for health reasons.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technical education, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student. Sufficient time to change clothing will be allotted to students in these situations.

Elementary students may wear sweat pants in the approved school colors (White, Maroon, Yellow, Gold, Black, Gray or Blue) on days they have physical education.

An exception from the dress code will be made on Picture Day.

To foster positive school spirit, sweatshirts, sweaters, warm-up jackets and t-shirts with the Steel Valley insignia (SV) in the approved colors may be worn over top of a collared shirt in the approved colors. These items may be customized for different school organizations, but they must include the school insignia. The Superintendent must approve all designs.

Collared shirts with the Steel Valley insignia (SV) in the approved colors may be worn. These items may be customized for different school organizations, but they must include the school insignia. The Superintendent must approve all designs.

Warm-up jackets that mimic Steel Valley warm-up jackets are permitted.

Other exceptions will require approval from the building principal. Such exception requests must be made in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance and must include a reason/explanation for the request.

### General

All clothing is to be clean and neat.

Attire not in compliance with this uniform policy is not permitted. In addition to the clothing items expressly prohibited under this policy, principals and district administration have discretion to address any attire/body art that is offensive, degrading, vulgar, contrary to the educational mission of the school, disrupting the learning environment, or infringing upon the rights of others.

### Transfer Students

Transfer students must be in compliance with the dress code policy by the first day of school.

### Dress Down Days

Dress down days may be announced at the discretion of administration. The previous dress code policy, shown below, will be in effect on those days.

### Violations

Violations of this policy are subject to disciplinary action according to the appropriate-level Student Handbook.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop procedures to ensure that each district school implements this policy.

### Previous Dress Code (Prior to the 2014-2015 School Year)

#### Elementary -

T-shirts or other clothing promoting obscene, profane and other content likely to disrupt the educational process, and messages promoting violence, gangs, drugs or alcohol are not permitted.

Because the wearing of scarves, hats, hoods, or other headgear may impede vision or conceal identity, hats, bandanas, hoods, or any other headgear are not to be worn in the school building.

Bare feet or footwear, such as flip-flops, which may present a hazard in walking or which promote disease are not permitted.

Spandex or other tight fitting apparel, tank tops (muscle shirts), or sleeveless athletic shirts, halter-tops, spaghetti straps, bare chests or midribs, half-shirts and other provocative apparel are not permitted.

#### Secondary -

T-shirts or other clothing promoting obscene, profane and other content likely to disrupt the educational process, and messages promoting violence, gangs, drugs or alcohol are not permitted.

Because the wearing of scarves, hats, hoods, or other headwear may impede vision or conceal identity, hats, bandanas, hoods, or any other headgear are not to be worn in the school building.

Bare feet or footwear, such as flip-flops, which may present a hazard in walking or which promote disease are not permitted.

Spandex or other tight fitting apparel, tank tops (muscle shirts), or sleeveless athletic shirts, halter-tops, spaghetti straps, bare chests or midriffs, half-shirts and other provocative apparel are not permitted.

Dress shorts may be worn. The dress shorts will be at a length of mid-thigh and/or fingertips, whichever is longer. Cutoffs and athletic shorts will not be considered to be dress shorts and may not be worn in class.

Clothing which has been severely modified beyond its original form or design e.g. cutoff shirts, trousers, pants, slacks, etc. shall not be permitted.

Jeans or any other pants worn below the waist shall not be permitted.

Legal

24 P.S. 1317.3

22 PA Code 12.11

Pol. 325