

## Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code

The board agrees that student dress and personal appearance greatly impact academic performance and social interaction with other students. Therefore, the board requests that parents outfit their students in attire and personal appearance that is conducive to learning and appropriate social conduct. The board prohibits any appearance or clothing that:

- Violates the guidelines in this policy as a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the district and school;
- Is reasonably likely to create a substantial and material disruption to the educational process or to the operation of the school;
- Depicts profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or violence; or
- Creates a threat to the health or safety of the student or others.

All students must observe the following guidelines:

1. All clothing, jewelry, and accessories cannot encourage or promote illegal drug use, gang affiliation or activity, sexual activity, violence or hate group activity, intimidation, inflammatory content, alcohol or tobacco usage, or detrimental content to the instructional process. This includes but is not limited to:

- a. Clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or other items worn or displayed with the intent to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang.
- b. Tobacco, alcohol, and novelty T-shirts, accessories, or other clothing items that depict sexual, inflammatory, or detrimental content.

2. All pants and shorts must be worn and secured at the waist. Pants must not be clingy or form-fitting without a proper covering that reaches the fingertips, such as leggings with pico dresses or tops. Underwear may not be visible at any time. Pajamas and sleepwear are not permitted.

3. All skirts and dresses must reach the top of the knee. All shorts, jumpers and skorts must be longer than the fingertips with arms down at the side.

4. Shirts and tops should be high enough to fully cover the chest without showing cleavage. Shirts must not be made of netting, sheer, see-through, tight fitting or spandex materials and must cover the midriff area. Spaghetti straps, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, exposed sports bras and off the shoulder shirts are not permissible. Sleeveless shirts must have a strap of at least a minimum of three inches and secure under the arm without gaps or holes. Non-functional holes in

shirt material such as cuts, ribbing, or fraying is not allowed. Cold shoulder tops will be allowed as long as there is at least three inches on the top strap to meet the above sleeveless shirt rules.

5. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times and must be properly laced, tied, buckled and fastened. Bedroom slippers or sleepwear is not permitted. Close-toed athletic shoes should be worn during physical education.

6. Head coverings, headgear, kerchiefs, do-rags, bandanas, hats, caps or sunglasses may not be worn inside the building except for medical or religious observance as agreed upon with the school administrator. Hoodies and coats with hoods may not be worn with the hood over the head at any time. Toboggans and hats may be worn outside as weather dictates.

7. Accessories and adornment such as jewelry, belt buckles, studded belts, studded bracelets, knuckle rings, chains, wallet chains, and other items that could be perceived as or used as a weapon are prohibited.

8. Piercings and jewelry cannot be affixed to the nose, tongue, cheek, lip, eyebrow or other area, where such jewelry could reasonably be thought to cause a substantial disruption to the learning environment or poses a safety concern.

For a first violation of this policy, the student will be asked to remove or correct the inappropriate item and the parents/guardians will be notified. If necessary, parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing for the student. Further disciplinary action will be taken for habitual or repeat violations of the school dress code. All school staff and faculty are expected to strictly enforce the student dress code requirements and promptly report violations to administration.

Principals may use their discretion to approve attire outside of the prescribed dress code policy for special school functions, such as Spirit Week.

Principals and/or the superintendent/designee may make exceptions to this policy based on medical or religious reasons.

Principals have the discretion to specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are appropriate at the school consistent with the terms of this policy in order to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47, -390.2](#); *Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ.*, 93 F. Supp. 2d 649 (E.D.N.C. Dec. 15, 1999)

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Gang-Related Activity (policy 4328)

Adopted: June 27, 2013

Revised: November 19, 2018; January 14, 2020

**Bertie County Schools**