

Orange Board of Education Policy, Regulations, Procedures, and Forms

P5132(a)

Students

Dress and Grooming

The community and general public often judge the quality of education by the behavior, appearance, and activities of its student body. The attire and grooming of individual students in the school system are the responsibility of the students and their parents or guardians. There are however, general principles of good taste and modesty which must and shall be observed.

Students' overall appearance should fall within generally accepted definitions of neatness and cleanliness. Students are expected to dress themselves for the business of school so as to neither distract other students or teachers, disrupt the educational process, or pose a health and/or safety threat to themselves or others.

The intent of this policy is to encourage all concerned to dress, groom, and conduct themselves in keeping with an atmosphere that reflects a sensitivity to and respect for self and others and the overall functions of the school.

No restrictions on dress and adornment will be imposed which 1) reflect discrimination as to civil rights; 2) interfere with any free speech/first amendment rights that the student may have; 3) enforce particular codes of morality or religious tenets; 4) attempt to dictate or adjudicate style or taste, or 5) do not fall within the direct or implied powers of the Board of Education. Clothing should be clean and unadorned.

Students whose dress or grooming is judged by the staff as distracting, disruptive, or dangerous to personal safety will be subject to administrative action.

The following clothing styles are considered inappropriate and are specifically prohibited:

1. Footwear that marks/damages floors or is a safety hazard, i.e., flip flops.
2. Clothing that promotes or refers to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco and/or contains offensive signs, symbols, or words.
3. Clothing that displays slogans, names, titles, or that are defamatory toward a person, group, school, or other organizations that are likely to incite or inflame.
4. "See-through" style blouses/shirts and/or mesh-style shirts.
5. Tops that expose the midriff or expose undergarments.
6. Low-cut tops, halters, or tube tops.
7. Hats or caps, except those worn pursuant to established religious customs. Students, when wearing a hooded sweatshirt, can only have the hood up on their heads outdoors.
8. Shorts should be mid-thigh length.
9. Coats are normally worn as outdoor wear, e.g., ski jackets, parkas, and raincoats.
10. Sunglasses (should not be worn on the face or head indoors).

Students

Appeal Process

Students or parents may appeal faculty or administrative decisions that are applied to them or to their child by first discussing it with the person(s) who made the decision. Any further appeal must be made in writing to the Principal, and the appeal must demonstrate: 1) a policy or rule being unfairly applied or 2) a violation or misinterpretation of a policy or rule. The Principal will hear the appeal informally and in a timely manner which he/she deems appropriate to the situation. The Principal's decision will be final unless the decision is appealed. Any appeal beyond the Principal will be conducted by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision will be final.

(cf. 5132.1 – Uniforms: Dress & Grooming)

(cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.511 – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program)

(cf. 5145.53 – Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.