

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents/guardians and/or other caregivers outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is provocative or obscene; or
3. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

Students are prohibited from wearing clothing, jewelry, other apparel and/or decals that:

1. depict profanity, vulgarity, obscenity or violence;
2. promote use or abuse of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol;
3. create a threat to the health or safety of the student or others;
4. attack or demean other persons due to race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, religious affiliation, or physical, emotional, or intellectual abilities or characteristics;
5. are otherwise, in fact, deemed by school officials to be reasonably likely to create a substantial and material disruption to the educational process or to the operation of the school, including but not limited to items that are reasonably expected to intimidate other students on the basis of race (for example the Confederate flag, swastika, and Ku Klux Klan or KKK or affirmations of white supremacy), gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, religious affiliation or physical, emotional or intellectual abilities or characteristics;

Principals are encouraged to involve the School Improvement Team, student leadership and advisory groups to help in establishing the specific regulations for the school. Attention should be given to developing reasonable guidelines that balance the needs for individuality to the needs of maintaining safety, orderliness and good taste for the school community. Dress codes will be given to the students at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in school.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390.2

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)

Replaces Policy 468

History of Policy 468

Adopted: April 11, 2002

NCSBA wording and revisions replacing Policy 468 were adopted: May 2, 2013

Revised: September 6, 2018

October 1, 2020