

SCH 2023-2024 Pre-K - 12 Dress Code Policy

Dress Code Policy: Board Policy 5511

a. General

i. SCH recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. A student shares with his or her parents the right to dress according to personal preference except where such dress is dangerous to the student's health and safety of others or is distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and teaching process. SCH may prohibit students from wearing clothing or attire that, in the opinion of school authority:

1. Presents a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school.
2. Interferes with schoolwork, creates disorder, or disrupts the educational program.
3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or
4. Prevents the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

ii. Students' dress will conform to the following during the school day and during school-sponsored activities unless given explicit permission by school personnel. For example, platform shoes taller than two inches and dresses/gowns without sleeves may be worn to high school dances.

b. Banned Messaging

Clothing and accessories shall not be worn if they display or suggest inappropriate pictures/sayings including (but not limited to):

- Profanity or vulgarity
- Obscene or foul language
- Symbols of violence (guns, depictions of violent acts)
- Discriminatory messages

- Gang or gang-like symbols
- Sexually suggestive symbols, pictures, or words
- Alcohol, tobacco or drug related symbols, pictures, or words

c. Dress Code Values:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal “distractions” without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- Student dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- School staff should be trained and able to use student/body-positive language to explain the code and to address code violations.
- While teachers should focus on teaching, building-wide dress code enforcement requires a team effort from all staff to be effective.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized whenever possible.
- Our student dress code is designed to accomplish several goals:
 - Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
 - Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
 - Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
 - Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
 - Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
 - Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
 - Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that will interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, invade the

rights of others, or create a reasonably foreseeable risk of such interference or invasion of rights.

- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is racist, lewd, vulgar or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

d. Accessories

- Headphones/earbuds/AirPods are not permitted to be worn or used in the hallways during school hours. Only with specific permission may they be used in a classroom.
- Pocket/wallet chains are not permitted.
- Sunglasses shall not be worn inside unless prescribed by a physician and administration is made aware.
- Detachable gold teeth, grills or fangs are not permitted.
 - These may be confiscated and will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian only.

e. Footwear

School City of Hammond does not have the materials/provisions to fix footwear.

- Slippers are not permitted (such as bedroom slippers and house shoes).
- Students are not allowed to walk barefoot at any time during the school day.
- Shoes with laces are to be laced, tucked, or tied.
- Shoes manufactured with wheels are not permitted.
- Flimsy shoes are discouraged (thin-strap sandals, etc....).

- These types of shoes are not made to handle the wear and tear of walking and shuffling around all day in a school setting.
- If they break, the student will be sent to the Academic Behavior Resource (ABR) room until such time as a parent/guardian can bring another pair of shoes to school.

f. Headwear

- Non-religious head coverings, including but not limited to caps, hats, costume wigs, bandanas, hair curlers, picks, combs, hoods, do-rags/wave caps, bonnets, and headscarves of any kind are not allowed, unless provided special permission by school administration.

g. Pants/Slacks

- Pants will be worn fitted to the waist with or without a belt, and they will not expose undergarments.
 - If a student is “sagging” where undergarments are exposed, the student will be asked to fasten the pants at his/her waist, call home for a belt to be brought in and/or be placed in our Academic Behavior Resource (ABR) Room until such time as an appropriate pair of pants/belt can be brought from home. If the student continues to sag their pants where undergarments are exposed, a disciplinary referral may be written.
- Belts must be appropriately buckled.
- Flannel pants, pajamas, and pajama-looking pants are not permitted.

h. Shirts and Tops

- Clothing that exposes the back, shoulders, torso- including stomach/belly button area, and/or cleavage, such as the following (but not limited to) is not allowed:
 - Tube tops/Halters/Crop Tops
 - Tank tops/Spaghetti straps
 - Bare back or midriff clothing
 - Bathing suits

- Basketball-style jerseys without a shirt underneath
 - Shirts with slits above the waist
 - Sheer material whereby undergarments can be seen
 - Hoodies are allowed but hoods cannot cover a student's head
- All shirts must cover the belly button area, lower back area and chest area.

i. Leggings/Shorts/Dresses/Skirts

- Pants/skirts/shorts/dresses with rips, tears, and/or holes should be below the thigh and at an appropriate length at their sides.
- At no time should clothing be worn that is too tight; revealing undergarments or private areas; or too loose so that undergarments and/or too much skin is revealed.
 - This includes loose tops that fall from the shoulders as well as pants that sag and expose undergarments.

j. Outerwear

- Winter coats and heavy jackets are not permitted to be worn during class time.
 - Light weight items such as sweatshirts & sweaters are okay.
- Blankets/Throws and the like are not allowed to be “worn” during the school day.

k. Dress Code Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.

- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms because of a dress code violation as outlined.

- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
- If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- School staff shall not enforce the school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.
- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school.
- "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
 - kneeling or bending over to check attire fit.
 - measuring straps or skirt length.
 - asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others.
 - calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others; in particular, directing students to correct sagged pants that do not expose the entire undergarment, or confronting students
 - accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing.

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances, and prom. Student athletic apparel will be defined by safety and competitive performance standards. Students who feel they have been subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact the building administration

SCH Administration and/or Staff will make the final decision as to whether clothing worn by a student at school is appropriate for the school environment.

1. Student ID Cards- Middle and High School Students ONLY

The safety of all students and staff is one of SCH's number one priorities. All students should have their ID picture taken and on file. Students must have their ID card on their lanyard, around their neck, and visible to enter the building, classrooms, and pass through the cafeteria accounts, and for identification purposes. Failure to have your ID card when requested by any staff/security member will result in disciplinary action-one consequence per day (see discipline table). Any ID which has been altered, obscured, or defaced is not valid, and the student will be responsible for the cost of a replacement ID.

m. Dress Code Violation Consequences

A dress code violation is a Level 1 offense. Additionally, depending on the circumstances and school-specific practices, students may be asked to change their clothes, when available. Only when a student's clothing is likely to cause a substantial disruption to the learning environment should the student be held from class until a change of clothing becomes available and keeping students out of class for dress-code violations should be limited to the maximum extent possible.