



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Dress And Grooming
Code	221
Status	Active
Adopted	July 19, 2005
Last Revised	August 19, 2014

Purpose

The Board recognizes the right of every student to freedom of expression both in speech and the wearing of apparel as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Board also recognizes its paramount obligation to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the students who attend its schools.

The Board further recognizes its responsibility to maintain a positive learning environment in the schools under its jurisdiction and to minimize the opportunity for student distraction and/or disruption.

The Board believes that a policy of uniform dress will address the issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of the students attending its schools and will further aid in the maintenance of a positive learning environment.[1]

Authority

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices which:[1][2]

1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student to him/herself or to others in the school.
2. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
4. Prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, shop classes, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.[2]

Students have the responsibility to keep themselves, their clothes, and their hair clean. School officials may impose limitations on student participation in the regular instructional program where there is evidence that the lack of cleanliness constitutes a health hazard to the educational process.[2]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy, which designates the building principal to monitor student dress and grooming in his/her building and instruct staff members to demonstrate, by example, wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, property, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.[3][4][5]

Guidelines

Parents/Guardians must be mindful that dress, which may be distracting or disruptive to the learning process, will not be tolerated. Any student violating this dress code will be considered insubordinate and dealt with according to the district's discipline policy. School administrators have the final responsibility for interpretation and enforcement. School administrators may give permission for students to dress outside the parameters of the dress code guidelines on planned occasions. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the Renaissance Faire, Literary Character days, and field trips.[6]

The following dress and grooming guidelines shall apply to all students in grades K-12:

1. All students in grades K-12 shall be subject to a uniform dress code consisting of navy or tan pants, a navy or white shirt, and brown, black or burgundy shoes. Sneakers will be permitted when conforming to guidelines in item 6.
2. Shirts will be long or short-sleeved, pullover, golf-style shirts, in solid navy or white, with a collar, appropriately sized, buttoned to the base of the neck. Students may opt to wear a white dress shirt, appropriately sized, buttoned to the base of the neck, and tucked in. Students may wear solid navy or white turtleneck or crewneck shirts under the regulation shirt or a navy, tan, or white full torso sweater in cold weather. Shirts should not be see-through, so that any type of garment or accessory worn underneath will not be visible. Students at the elementary level may elect to wear the turtleneck shirt as the primary garment.

All shirts must have sleeves which cover the shoulders. Undershirts/ Undergarments may only be white or navy in color and must be tucked into the pants or skirt. Tank tops, sleeveless tops, shells, mesh tops, sheer tops, bare midriffs, or any other garments that expose the upper torso will not be permitted.

3. Pants will be straight-legged, solid navy or tan dress pants or casual slacks. Pants may not be of the cargo or carpenter style with pockets below the hips, loops, straps, elastic ankles or other comparable adornments. Pants must be worn at the waist and fit comfortably. Excessively tight or baggy pants will not be permitted. Pants must be of an appropriate length so as not to drag on the floor. Garments worn so as to expose underwear will be in defiance of the dress code.
4. Denim pants, jeans, capri pants, and shorts may not be worn.

5. Students will be permitted to wear skirts and jumpers that are knee-length or longer in tan or navy. Skirts must be of an A-line, pleated, or wraparound style, fit comfortably, and be free of pockets below the hip, loops, straps and other comparable adornments. Denim/Jean skirts or denim/jean jumpers may not be worn.
6. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Shoes will be solid brown, black, tan, navy blue, or burgundy with matching laces. Shoes must be close-toed. Shoes with excessive heels, boots, and sandals are prohibited. All footwear must have a back, which secures the shoe to the foot. Sneakers are permitted and must be white, black, brown, tan, navy blue or gray with minimal variation. Laces must match the body of the sneaker. No pictures, patterns, or words are permitted. Shoes and sneakers may not light up or have wheels. Socks must be navy blue, black, brown, tan, or white.
7. For physical education classes in grades K-12, clothing requirements will be appropriate to the nature of the activity and must meet the standards set forth in the dress code at 2b and 9b. Elementary students in grades K-5 may wear physical education clothing to school on days when they are scheduled to have physical education. Shorts, sweatpants, sweatshirts and t-shirts worn on physical education days for students must be solid navy or white. Students in the middle and high school are expected to wear a t-shirt that covers the waistline and has sleeves, knee-length shorts, wind pants, or jogging pants worn at the waistline, and socks and sneakers.
8. Due to the educational environment at the elementary level and requirements for physical education and other activities such as recess, students in grades K-5 will be permitted the following accommodations: sneakers will be permitted; tan or navy, knee-length shorts will be permitted; and boots will be permitted in inclement weather.
9. There shall be no clothing worn containing insignias or logos.

No messages, written or symbolic, will be permitted pertaining to, but not limited to, drug, alcohol or tobacco messages, references to illegal substances, implications of an obscene or sexual nature, negative comments about another's culture, references to racist or hate groups, or violence.

10. Jewelry and other adornments:

- a. The district recognizes the right of students to wear jewelry and other adornments. However, certain jewelry and other adornments, and the manner in which they are worn or displayed, may not be appropriate under certain circumstances, and may pose a danger to the safety and welfare of the student or to the other students or staff, and may pose a threat to, or interruption of, the educational process.
- b. In the case of the day-to-day school environment, the administration and/or teaching staff may require that students remove any jewelry and other adornments which might reasonably be considered as posing a threat to the safety of the student, other students or staff, or as posing a threat to, or interruption of, the educational process.
- c. Earrings and body rings worn at locations other than the ears are not allowed. Specifically, those worn in the nose, eyebrow, tongue, cheek, or any other visible location besides the ears are not acceptable.

- d. The piercing of body parts and the insertion of jewelry or other objects which result in bleeding, oozing of bodily fluids or other physical condition, which may reasonably pose a danger to the student or others, is considered inappropriate.
 - e. There shall be no chains worn other than those designed as jewelry.
 - f. Hair coloring of a fluorescent or nontypical color shall not be permitted.
 - g. Hats, handkerchiefs, or other similar headwear may not be worn in the school building during regular school hours except for religious or health reasons.
 - h. Sunglasses are not permitted inside the building unless required by an attending physician.
 - i. Accessories deemed to be distracting, disruptive, or offensive in nature are prohibited.
11. Clothing should be clean; not excessively stained or faded; tidy; and free from tears, holes, and fraying.
 12. Students may carry clear backpacks to and from school. Backpacks will remain in the student's locker during the school day, except to carry physical education clothing from the locker to physical education class.
 13. Any educational item or athletic gear brought to and from school will remain in the student's locker during the school day, except to carry items to a designated classroom or to carry gear to a practice or game. If an item requires a cover, a clear bag or a clear utility bag must be used. Advisers, coaches, and/or teachers will provide specific instructions regarding these items and gear.
 14. Golf bags, ski gear, band uniforms and musical instruments may be brought to a designated area in the school for inspection and storage. These items must have visible identification labels and will not be accessed during the school day. Advisors/coaches/music teachers will provide directions for specific items.
 15. Girls may carry purses during the school day. Purses may not exceed 8" x 11" in size.
 16. Upon enrollment in the Tamaqua Area School District, new students will be granted a grace period of one (1) week before being required to conform to section 1 of the dress code.

Opt-Out Procedure

If the parent/guardian of a student or the student has what they consider to be a bona-fide religious belief which precludes strict adherence to the dress and grooming guidelines, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may fill out the appropriate waiver form and submit all other documentation reasonably requested by the administration to establish their objection.

Parents/Guardians requesting an exemption from these guidelines will be required to meet with the Superintendent or his/her designee to discuss the guidelines and the nature of the objection necessitating a waiver. Following this meeting, the Superintendent shall render a written decision approving or denying the requested waiver.

If the parents/guardians do not agree with the Superintendent's decision, the parents/guardians may request in writing a nonpublic meeting with a designated committee

of the Board of Education. The decision of the committee following this meeting shall be in writing.

Any exemption from these guidelines granted by the Superintendent or the designated committee of the Board of Education shall be limited to the minimum variance from the guidelines necessary in light of the specific, bona-fide religious belief, which precludes strict compliance. The exception as allowed will be clearly stated.

Economic Hardship

Any exemption granted will apply only to the current school year. If an exemption for a subsequent year is requested from a parent/guardian whose child was enrolled at the conclusion of the previous year, the applications for exemption must be submitted to the Superintendent prior to July committee meetings. This procedure shall ensure a decision on the application for exemption prior to the beginning of the first student day of the school year.

- Legal
1. 24 P.S. 1317.3
 2. 22 PA Code 12.11
 3. Pol. 325
 4. Pol. 425
 5. Pol. 525
 6. Pol. 218

[221-Attach 1.doc \(32 KB\)](#)

[221-Attach 2.doc \(32 KB\)](#)