

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The policy of the Evangeline Parish School Board shall be that no mode of attire shall be considered proper for school wear that disrupts the classroom and/or the school's positive learning environment. In questions regarding student dress and grooming, the principal or his/her designee of each school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided.

The School Board desires to teach each student to use good judgment in his/her total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the purpose of the school. Cleanliness and the values of the community shall be a basic consideration.

NOTIFICATION

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date.

If the School Board modifies the existing uniform policy, it shall notify in writing the parent or guardian of each student of the policy adoption or uniform policy modification at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy. Each school shall display any uniform selected for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective date for wearing of the uniform.

However, nothing shall prohibit the School Board from requiring a new or revised dress code or uniform policy without the required notice in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this policy, *emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

DRESS AND PERSONAL GROOMING

Student dress and grooming are not to adversely affect the students' participation in classes, school programs, other school-related activities or detract from the learning environment of the school. Extremes in style and fit in student dress and extremes in style of grooming will not be permitted. Administrators are authorized to use their discretion in determining extremes in styles of dress and grooming and what is appropriate and suitable for school wear. No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures. Beards and goatees shall be prohibited. Policies regarding dress and grooming stress the importance of reducing distractions that inhibit learning and are addressed as an attempt to enhance the learning environment.

The School Board shall not discriminate against an employee on the basis of a natural, protective or cultural hairstyle. *Natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle* shall include, but

is not limited to, afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural significance.

BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

Body armor shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

UNIFORMS

All students are mandated to wear the official parish uniform unless the *School Dress Code Review Committee* has made an exemption. A request for exemption to the policy must be made in writing to the Superintendent.

The uniform top shall be a collared white, gray, or navy blue polo or oxford shirt, short or long-sleeved. The parish logo shall be optional on shirts. If the logo is worn, it shall be displayed on the left side below the shoulder. No other emblems shall be allowed. Tee shirts shall not be part of the official uniform. Spirit shirts may be worn only on spirit days as announced by the principal. White under shirts, long or short sleeves, or under shirts of the same uniform color shall be acceptable.

The uniform bottom shall be navy or khaki cotton twill. Girls shall be permitted to wear navy or khaki jumpers, skirts, shorts, and skorts in all grades. Jumpers, skirts, shorts, and skorts shall not exceed four (4) inches above the bend of the knee. Capri pants shall be acceptable. Hip huggers shall not be permitted. All bottoms shall be worn at the waistline with shirts tucked in. Pants or shorts shall have belt loops except in grades Pre-K through third (3rd). Elastic waistbands shall be permitted in grades Pre-K through third (3rd) also. A belts shall be required with pants that have belt loops. Belts must be black, brown, or one of the uniform colors, including white. Blue jeans shall not be permitted. Oversized belt buckles shall not be permitted (standard buckles only). Baggy or oversized clothes shall not be permitted. Pants shall not have pockets on lower legs or upper thighs (cargo). Standard back and side pockets shall be allowed.

Shoes shall be required. Footwear should not be a safety hazard. Slides, slippers, crocs, and flip flops shall not be permitted. Sandals shall have a back strap. Socks shall be black, white, or one of the uniform colors. Boots are to be worn under the pant legs; pant

legs must cover the top portion of boots.

All jackets, including sweatshirts, shall open in the front. Flannel or button-down dress shirts shall not be worn as jackets.

The following items shall not be allowed: clothing, symbols, pins, or other items displaying controlled substances; items displaying inappropriate words or pictures that are derogatory to any ethnic group; or anything intended to cause disruption of any school, class, or activity shall not be allowed.

Caps (baseball) may be allowed in grades Pre-K through fourth (4th). Students in grades five (5) through twelve (12) shall be allowed to wear caps in welding and industrial arts courses, where required. Students with medical problems shall be permitted to wear caps if the principal approves. Bandannas shall not be permitted. "Doo" rags shall not be permitted.

Jewelry shall not be worn during physical education activities or athletic activities. Earrings shall be prohibited for male students. Nose rings and any jewelry worn in body piercing shall be strictly prohibited, except in the ears of females.

Males shall be clean-shaven. Only well-groomed, trimmed moustaches may be permitted. Male students shall not be allowed to wear nail polish or makeup. Afros shall be measured from the scalp and shall not exceed two (2) inches. Long hair shall not pass the bottom of the shirt collar and must be above the eyebrows (boys only). Hair must be of natural colors. Fluorescent and/or rainbow colors shall be prohibited.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS

All secondary students and other students, where required by the local school, shall be required to dress out for physical education classes in a standard uniform. Exceptions can be made for religious reasons only as hereinafter stated.

The standard uniform for physical education (P.E.) classes shall be as follows:

- Students must wear official district-approved P.E. uniforms, sized appropriately.
- The uniform shall be light gray T-shirt with the Evangeline Parish P.E. logo in black writing.
- The shorts shall be gray with a small Evangeline Parish P.E. logo in black writing.

Schools may sell uniforms to students as a service, but students shall not be required to buy uniforms from the school. Students shall not be required to purchase new uniforms each year if their present uniforms are in acceptable condition and fit properly.

Proper dress in physical education class shall be a factor in determining a student's grade.

A student shall be allowed to dress for physical education class in accordance with his/her religious beliefs, provided that he or she has a written permission or excuse from his/her minister.

BOOKSACKS

All schoolbags (including bookbags, backpacks, satchels, etc.) shall be constructed of a clear plastic or mesh material in order that the contents of the bag are clearly visible.

Athletic bags that are not see-through shall only be allowed in the field house or locker room.

APPEAL PROCESS

Deviation from the above dress code for medical, religious, handicapping and/or any other extenuating circumstances can only be granted by the *School Dress Code Review Committee*. This committee shall be composed of the Superintendent or his/her designee, the Policy Supervisor, the Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisor, the Drug Free/Violence Free Schools Supervisor, and the Special Education Director/designee.

A request for an appeal hearing shall be made in writing to the Superintendent, stating the reason for the deviation. A hearing date shall be set within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the request, and an answer to the appeal shall be rendered in writing within ten (10) working days after the hearing. A copy of the decision shall also be sent to the principal of the school in question. The determination of this committee shall be final.

Persons making the request for an appeal shall be prepared to present written documentation supporting their reason for the deviation. The type of documentation required shall be listed in the letter to them, which states the date of the hearing.

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Students who violate the dress code shall be disciplined in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

A student enrolled in grades prekindergarten through five shall not be suspended or expelled from school or suspended from riding on any school bus for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.

Revised: August, 2010
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Revised: October 21, 2015
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Revised: August 17, 2022

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. "14:95.9, 17:81, 17:111, 17:416, 17:416.7; Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt; 460 F. 2d 609 (5th Cir. 1972); Board minutes, 5-5-10, 10-21-15, 5-2-18, 8-17-22.