

## **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

The Board and Administration recognize the importance of the rights and privileges of each individual in the School District. The Board is also aware that schools are for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for all students in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and as free as possible from disruption. Any student-worn article of clothing determined to be disruptive to the learning environment or hazardous to the health and safety of students will not be allowed. Therefore, in an effort to provide the best educational opportunities in the schools, the Board subscribes to and approves the following dress code.

All students are expected to practice good hygiene habits daily. Clothing shall not be so tight or loose as to be overly revealing. Articles of clothing must be appropriate and worn as designated for school wear. All articles of clothing should be clean and odorless. Students are required to be lice free. Any dispute concerning a dress code issue will be at the discretion of school administrators, superintendent or designee.

### **HEAD COVERINGS**

Head coverings must be removed when entering the building and/or school buses (examples: hats, caps, sweat bands, bandannas, visors, sunglasses, etc.).

### **JEWELRY**

1. Any body piercing jewelry other than ear jewelry for girls is not allowed. All other jewelry should not be excessive. Earrings are not permitted on boys; body piercings are not allowed and any other jewelry deemed by the administration to be distracting, excessive or a hazard is not to be worn by boys or girls.
2. Bracelets, belts, gloves, necklaces and other accessories with spikes, studs, metal balls or chains are not allowed. No hemp jewelry is allowed.

### **HAIR**

Hair must be clean, well-groomed and should not impair vision. Male students with facial hair must keep it neat and well groomed. No stripes cut into the eyebrows will be allowed. No hair style, hair color, makeup, clothing or other article which is disruptive to the learning environment or which identifies a student as being a member of a gang and/or subversive or unlawful organization will be allowed.

## **UNDERGARMENTS**

Proper undergarments must be worn AT ALL TIMES with all clothing with no substitutes or NO exceptions. At no time may underwear be exposed.

## **SHIRTS (Grades 5-12)**

1. Shirts must have sleeves that cover the shoulders, upper arms, and arm pits. The shoulders, chest, or back should not be able to be seen at any time. Note: “Cold Shoulders” may be allowed at the discretion of the administrator.
2. Shirts and tops should be long enough to cover the midriff when sitting or standing.
3. All shirts must fit properly and not be oversized or excessively long as determined by the school administrator.

## **DRESSES AND SKIRTS (Grades 5-12)**

1. Dresses must cover the top of the shoulders and arm pits. They also must have sleeves or be worn with a top that does have sleeves.
2. Dresses must be buttoned high enough to cover the chest, and the back of the body cannot be exposed.
3. All dresses and skirts must be worn at the top of the knee.
4. All leggings and jeggings must be worn with tops that reach the end of the fingertips.

## **PANTS**

- All pants and other items of clothing must be clean with no holes “above the knee” showing skin. No shredded or split pants are permitted. All pants must be properly hemmed or with cuffs.
- All pants must fit properly–no sagging/dragging pants.
- No exposed underwear is allowed
- Pants with belt loops must be worn with a size-appropriate belt for students in grades 5 – 12.
- No sweat pants allowed for grades 5 – 12; however, students in grades 5 – 12 may wear sweat pants during Physical Education or athletic practice.
- No pants of jogging suits, sweat suits, wind suits or similar types of clothing are allowed to be worn as outerwear. (Grades 5-12)

## **SHORTS**

Grades 5-12: Shorts shall be permitted provided that the shorts are neatly hemmed, conservative, and modest in appearance. Length of shorts should touch the knee.

Specifically prohibited are cutoffs, frayed-hem shorts, bicycle shorts, gym shorts, and form fitting and skin-tight shorts of lycra, spandex or other similar materials.

Grades K-4: Administrative Discretion may be used accordingly.

## SHOES

Shoes shall be worn at school at all times. Prohibited footwear includes any footwear not intended for outdoor wear and shoes with roller devices.

## COATS/JACKETS/OUTERWEAR

Any jackets or coats not approved for classroom wear must be removed upon entering the building and placed in a locker or designated area. Also, no outerwear may be taken off and tied around the waist and worn to class. Sweaters and sweatshirts are permitted provided they do not cover the pants pockets. NO OVERSIZED OUTERWEAR. Students who are cold-natured should wear only approved outerwear to class.

## BACKPACKS/ BACKPACK ACT

1. **All book bags/backpacks must be of the see-through variety** (mesh or clear plastic) for students in grades 5-12. During the regular school hours, all bags used for extracurricular activities must be checked in with the sponsor/ director/coach immediately upon arrival at school. **A book bag/backpack is any container large enough to carry an average size textbook, including sacks, purses, bags, etc.** See-through mesh laundry bags may be used as a book bag. All book bags, backpacks, etc., that have rollers are prohibited without a reasonable medical excuse or by school administrator's discretion with extenuating circumstances.
2. **Backpack Act** "Urging all school administrators, teachers, parents, and students to be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks and to take proactive measures to avoid injury. Whereas, overloaded school backpacks are causing an increasing problem of back pain and spinal strain for students across the nation..."

You may read the Backpack Act in its entirety on the Walker County Schools Webpage under "Services", then "Health Services", then "Student-Parent Forms And Resources".

## OTHER AREAS

1. Tattoos, clothing and accessories displaying obscene, distracting, or suggestive language, unacceptable graphics or advertisements for illegal substances (to include alcohol and tobacco) may **not** be worn or displayed. This will include anything that is derogatory to any race or religion.
2. Fingernails that are considered to be distractive or dangerous are not allowed.

3. The school Administration may judge the appropriateness of any “fad” or questionable article of apparel or item.
4. All students are expected to comply with the Dress Code. The school Administrator, Superintendent and Board may review an individual situation to decide if any modifications in the Dress Code are needed for the health and safety of a particular student. Administrators may make certain modifications for certain groups during performances or special activities. The approval of the modification must be made within Board accepted standards prior to the date of the modification.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS**

(for documented office visits per semester)

1<sup>st</sup> offense – Administrative Discretion

2<sup>nd</sup> offense – Administrative Discretion

3<sup>rd</sup> offense – Administrative Discretion

4<sup>th</sup> offense – Out of School Suspension (1 Day)

5<sup>th</sup> offense – Referral to 180 Program (Grades 5-12)

Note: Continued violations of the Dress Code may be handled at the Discretion of the Principal.

### **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

#### **AUTOMOBILE AND MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE BY STUDENTS**

Students operating motorized vehicles on school premises shall do so in accordance with Alabama traffic laws and such rules and regulations as may be formulated by local school officials. The privilege to operate a private vehicle on school property may be revoked if safety and/or local school rules are violated, including sitting in automobiles parked on school property during school hours.

Students will be required to present evidence of an Alabama driver’s license and proof of current liability insurance before they are authorized to bring a vehicle onto school premises.

The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exterior of students’ automobiles on school property.

Additionally, all students who operate a vehicle on school premises are subject to random drug testing.

The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent and without a search warrant.

Students who are unauthorized to use or operate privately or personally