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### **Board Policy Manual**

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## Policy 05.07: Dress and Decorum

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/29/1974 | Last Revised Date: 03/06/2023 | Last Reviewed Date: 03/06/2023

The policy of the Blount County Board of Education is that good grooming and personal appearances are essential elements in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, it is expected that students dress in such a manner that will ensure health and safety, and not detract from the learning environment. Furthermore, dress and personal appearance are not to be disruptive or interfere with the educational interest and welfare of the students or the purposes of public school education.

Any student violating the dress code may be suspended for the remainder of the school day and may receive unexcused absences in the classes missed. The principal or his/her designated person(s) has the authority to determine inappropriate dress.

Repeat offenders are subject to further disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the principal/designee.  $^2$ 

Principals can specify dress code for specific events, i.e. graduation, prom, etc. 5

## A. Student Dress Code

Students must be neatly dressed, clean, and well groomed while at school. Clothing must be suited for school activities.

Students in grades K-12 are prohibited from wearing excessively loose clothing including shirts, tops, pants, and shorts,

Pants should be of the appropriate size in the waist and inseam. Pants are not allowed that sag off the hips.

Trench coats are also prohibited.

4(Approved May 20, 1999)

Students in grades 4-12 are prohibited from wearing short shorts, short culottes, sheer mesh or net clothing, backless clothing, extremely tight pants, tank tops or muscle shirts, shirts with sleeves cut off at the shoulder, or clothing that exposes a bare midriff. (3) Shirts must be buttoned. For students in grades 4-12, clothing, cuts, slits, or tears in clothing should not exceed four inches above the knee. <sup>1</sup> Extremely tight clothing shall be prohibited. <sup>7</sup>Leggings and other tightly fitting pants must be covered with clothing that meets the four inch standard stated above.

Clothing or any item attached to or worn on clothing or on a person's body, with pictures, symbols, or writing conveying a message about alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, having a sexual connotation, containing any obscenity, or containing any foul or abusive language is prohibited on the school campus. No writing on back (seat) of pants, jeans, shorts, sweatpants, etc. for K-12 grade male and female students, including cheerleaders and all athletes.

Shoes or sandals must be worn.

Hats, headwear or head coverings, and sunglasses are not to be worn inside school buildings.

Students will be prohibited from wearing any apparel which is inappropriate or disruptive to the learning environment as determined by the principal.

(Revised/approved April 4, 2011)

6(Revised/approved April 8, 2011)

5(Revised April 4, 2005)

4(Revised May 20, 1999)

3(Revised May 15, 1997)

<sup>2</sup>(Revised May 1, 1995)

<sup>1</sup>(Revised May 14, 1991)

(Revised May 7, 1990)

(Revised May 4, 1987) (Revised May 5, 1986)

(Revised May 6, 1985)

(Revised May 2, 1983)

### B. Backpacks

No restrictions on backpacks.

(Revised May 4, 2009)

Students' hair should be kept clean, neat and well-groomed and of a length not dangerous around equipment (hair must be secured around equipment). Spiked hair, Mohawks, designs cut in hair, or hair that disrupts the educational process will not be allowed. Hair, including highlights, that is not a natural shade of hair color is unacceptable, i.e. pink, blue, green, purple, etc. (Revised May 10, 2017)

# D. Tobacco/Vapor/Electronic Cigarettes

Use or possession of tobacco in any form including vapor and/or electronic cigarettes is expressly prohibited on school premises and school buses including trips at all times, regardless or whether school is in or out of session.

One day Out Of School Suspension or Two days of In School Suspension (student must complete three educational packets/courses on vapes/tobacco before returning to regular classes). A parent/guardian will have to meet with a school administrator, and sign the Notification Form For: Nicotine Products, E-Cigarettes, Vapes, & Tobacco

P確附何をx.aspx?S=2086) Home Policies Listing Policy 05.07

Ten days at the Blount County Alternative School plus attend the Nicotine, Vape, & Tobacco Prevention Program at the Professional Development Center in Cleveland (a parent/guardian will be required to attend the Nicotine, Vape, & Tobacco Prevention Program with the student). The Nicotine, Vape, & Tobacco Prevention Program will be taught on Saturday mornings. Failure to attend the Nicotine, Vape, & Tobacco Prevention Program will result in an additional three day placement at the Blount County Alternative School. Those who fail to attend the Nicotine, Vape, & Tobacco Prevention Program on the original date will also be enrolled into the next available class. The address for the Professional Development Center is 62561 U.S. Highway 231 Cleveland, AL 35049. A parent/guardian will have to meet with a school administrator and sign the Notification Form For: Nicotine products, E-Cigarettes, Vapes, & Tobacco Products.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense

Out of School Suspension pending a disciplinary hearing,

- Students who are serving a Two-day In-School Suspension placement on the first offense will be excluded from extracurricular activities on one of the two days during the suspension
- Students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities while serving an Out of School Suspension or an Alternative Placement for any nicotine or tabacco offense.
- Students will receive a "0" for any grades taken during the Out of School Suspension time period.

Students who have or use E-Cigarettes, Vapes, or other products that contain THC or test positive for THC will result in an automatic suspension pending a disciplinary hearing. Students will also have to attend the NIcotine, Vape, & Tobacco Prevention Program.

(Revised March 6, 2023) (Revised April 6, 2015) (Revised May 15, 1997)

E. Drugs and Alcohol

Students in the possession of or under the influence of any illegal drugs or in the possession of drug paraphernalia (those drugs and paraphernalia prohibited by Federal and State of Alabama Laws) or alcoholic beverages will be suspended and subject to expulsion from school as well as subject to legal action by the appropriate legal authorities. Any student having in his/her possession any drug, prescription or non-prescription and/or gives away, sells, or attempts to give away and/or sell medication. non-prescription or prescription, will be subject to suspension or expulsion. (Revised July 29, 2003)

- F. Profanity and obscenity will not be tolerated
- G. Weapons

Students are prohibited from bringing to the school campus, having in their possession or in their lockers, any lethal weapons or facsimile, including but not limited to firearms, bombs, fireworks, explosives, knives, hunting knives, bayonets, razors, razor blades, letter openers, ice picks, and hat pins.

Any student who is found guilty of having a lethal weapon may be expelled by the Board.

In addition to the above policy on weapons, the following policy statement is required by Act 94-817 as it amends Section 1.3A-11-72, Code of Alabama 1975.

Subject to the exceptions provided in Section 13A-11-74, Code of Alabama 1972, no person shall knowingly with intent to do bodily harm carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school.

Possession of a deadly weapon with the intent to do bodily harm on the premises of a public school in violation of the subsection printed above is a Class C felony.

The term "deadly weapon" as used in this Act means a firearm or anything manifestly designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or serious physical injury, and such term includes, but is not limited to, a bazooka, hand grenade, missile or explosive or incendiary device; pistol, rifle, or shotgun; or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword or dagger; or any club, baton, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles. (Revised May 1, 1995)

The following policy relative to weapons (firearms) is necessitated by the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 and by Act of the Alabama Legislature, 1995:

Any student who, after due process has been accorded, is found to have brought a weapon (firearm) to school will be expelled by the Board for a period of not less than one year (365 days) subject to a case by case exception that may be granted by the Superintendent of Education for the purpose of disciplining students with disabilities in accordance with the requirements of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Furthermore, any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school must be referred by the principal to the criminal Justice or juvenile delinquency systems.

The one-year expulsion requirement applies to students who bring weapons to any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board including events held off the school campus and including school buses and other means of transportation that are under contract with the school or Board.

Nothing in this policy shall be constructed to prevent the Board from providing a student who has been expelled from the student's regular school setting educational services in an alternative setting.

Expulsion means removal from the student's regular school program at the location where the violation occurred.

Alternative setting means one that is clearly distinguishable from the student's regular school placement.

A "weapon" or "firearm" means a firearm as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code. According to Section 921, the following are included within the definition:

- any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive.
- the frame or receiver of any weapon described above
- · any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- any explosive incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or similar device
- any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter.
- any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

According to Section 921, the following are not included in the definition:

