

Students

Student Dress

The Board of Education has determined that reasonable regulation of school attire, including the implementation of a school uniform, can further important educational interests including:

- (1) Reducing distraction and loss of self-esteem caused by teasing or competition over clothing;
- (2) Providing an environment where students can focus more on learning;
- (3) Enhancing school safety by making it harder to conceal weapons or contraband;
- (4) Creating a greater sense of community amongst the students;
- (5) Preparing students for the future roles in the professional workplace;
- (6) Creating an atmosphere reflecting seriousness of purpose about education;
- (7) Presenting a more positive image to the community;
and
- (8) Minimizing disruption from wearing inappropriate clothing or possessing inappropriate items at school.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children's dress conforms to requirements set forth below. The health, safety and education of the child must be the concern of every parent/guardian. It is the recommendation of professional school personnel that parents/guardians hold their children to the highest standard in regards to school attire.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to the educational process, the Board of Education prohibits the following from wear during the academic school day:

- a. Coats, jackets, or other attire normally worn as outerwear. Outerwear includes: coats, jackets, windbreakers, nylon pullovers, down vests, and other clothing the administration deems inappropriate. Such clothing or outerwear shall not be worn, carried, or kept in the classroom during regular school hours except on the elementary level where it shall be kept in cubbies, closets or storage areas.
- b. Head coverings of any kind, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, masks, headbands, visors, kerchiefs, athletic sweatbands, hats, caps or hoods. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief shall not be prohibited under this policy. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck, or kept in the classroom during regular school hours.
- c. Items a. and b. above must be secured in the student's locker or in a designated storage area, before school starts. Items not stored will be confiscated by the Principal and kept until such time as he/she feels it is appropriate to return them.
- d. Footwear which mars floors, causes damage to floors, excessive noise or is a safety hazard including but not limited to, flip-flops, spike heels, boots.
- e. Sunglasses, whether worn or carried or eyewear that is not medically necessary.

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- f. Oversized metal belt buckles and all metal belts or belts featuring metal other than the buckle such as chains hanging off the belt or loops.
- g. Spiked or studded bracelets, brass knuckles, oversized or multi-finger rings, belts or any other article of attire with spikes or studs attached, or any other clothing item that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students, or staff.
- h. Attire or accessories which contain overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures likely to unduly disrupt the educational environment, or which constitute “fighting words”, gang colors, signage, etc., or which depict the logo or emblems of drugs, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages; or attire or accessories that encourage the use of such products.
- i. Shirts and/or blouses which reveal the abdomen, chest, or undergarments.
- j. See-through clothing, tank tops, spaghetti straps or strapless.
- k. Shorts, miniskirts, or pants which reveal the upper thigh or undergarments. Spandex garments are allowed only if they are covered by shorts or skirts.
- l. Pants that reveal any portion of the torso or the undergarments, or that are more than two sizes larger than the student’s physical size would require.
- m. If permitted by the school administration, backpacks and/or book bags may be carried between classes, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.

In addition, and starting with the 2010-2011 academic school year, all students at East Hartford Middle School and at the Grade 4-6 theme based school will be required to wear an approved school uniform.

The designated uniform for East Hartford Middle School shall be as follows:

1. Tops:

Short- or long- sleeved collared (polo) shirts from approved vendor in either white, black or red with the school logo. Shirts must be either tucked into skirts or pants or extend no lower than the top of the pants pocket (rear).

2. Bottoms:

- a. For boys and girls: casual or dress pants sized to fit the student in solid colors of black or khaki. (All other types of pants, including but not limited to jeans, overalls, cargo pants, painter pants, sweatpants, velour or other athletic pants or shorts, stretch pants, skinny pants, and sagging pants are not permitted.)

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- b. For girls: skirts or jumpers that are not more than 3” above the knee, sized to fit the student in solid black or khaki may be worn. Tight fitting skirts or jumpers are not permitted.
 - c. Before October 15th and after May 1st boys and girls may wear short or Capri-type pants in solid black or khaki. Shorts must be appropriately sized neither too short (3” above the knee) or too long (below the kneecap).
3. Optional Accessories from approved vendor: Sweaters -- sleeveless, long sleeve or cardigan – crew or V-neck in solid school colors of black, red, or white; Fleece – sleeveless or long-sleeve in solid black or red. (No sweatshirts or hoodies are allowed.)
4. Footwear: dress shoes, sneakers or low cut boots only. (Spiked, platform and slippers, flip-flops, slides, or other athletic-type footwear are not allowed.) Socks should be worn in either solid colors of black, white or gray.
5. Compliance: In all matters relating to student compliance with the dress code, the school principal and his/her designees shall have the final determination on whether a student is in compliance with the school uniform policy.
6. Dress Down Days/Special Recognition: The principal or his/her designees may allow for special occasions or to recognize academic, sports or behavioral achievement exceptions to the daily uniform requirement, i.e. a special fundraising activity or honor roll, Junior Honor Society.

The designated uniform for the Grade 4-6 theme based school shall be as follows:

1. Tops:

Short- or long- sleeved collared (polo) shirts from approved vendor in navy blue or white with the school name (logo). Shirts must be either tucked into skirts or pants or extend no lower than the top of the pants pocket (rear).

2. Bottoms:

- a. For boys and girls: casual or dress pants sized to fit the student in solid color of khaki. (All other types of pants, including but not limited to jeans, overalls, cargo pants, painter pants, sweatpants, velour or other athletic pants or shorts, stretch pants, skinny pants, and sagging pants are not permitted.)

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- b. For girls: skirts or jumpers that are not more than 3” above the knee, sized to fit the student in solid khaki may be worn. Tight fitting skirts or jumpers are not permitted.
- c. Before October 15th and after May 1st boys and girls may wear short or Capri-type pants in solid khaki. Shorts must be appropriately sized neither too short (3” above the knee) or too long (below the kneecap).
3. Optional Accessories from approved vendor: Sweaters -- sleeveless, long sleeve or cardigan – crew or V-neck in solid school colors of navy or white; Fleece – sleeveless or long-sleeve in solid navy or white. (No sweatshirts or hoodies are allowed.)
4. Footwear: dress shoes, sneakers or low cut boots only. (Spiked, platform and slippers, flip-flops, slides, or other athletic-type footwear are not allowed.) Socks should be worn in either solid colors of black, white, or navy.
5. Compliance: In all matters relating to student compliance with the dress code, the school principal and his/her designees shall have the final determination on whether a student is in compliance with the school uniform policy.
6. Dress Down Days/Special Recognition: The principal or his/her designees may allow for special occasions or to recognize academic, sports or behavioral achievement exceptions to the daily uniform requirement (i.e. a special fundraising activity or artistic achievement).

Religious and Health Accommodations

Where the bona fide religious beliefs or health needs of a student conflict with the school attire policy, the schools will provide reasonable accommodation. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify their school principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student’s bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

Compliance

School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with school attire requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the school attire policy, discipline is appropriate. The following discipline procedures shall apply:

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Compliance (continued)

High School:

First Offense:

Removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. (If unable to correct, they will not be allowed to return to class.)

Second Offense:

After-school detention. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected.

Third Offense:

In-school suspension. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Clothing must be corrected.

Subsequent Offenses:

Out-of-school suspension. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident. Upon return to school, clothing must be corrected.

Middle School:

Compliance with the uniform policy at the middle school will be delineated in the Administrative Guidelines contained in the 2010-2011 Student/Parent Handbook and subsequent editions.

Grade 4-6

theme based school

First Offense:

Verbal warning with a second chance to correct. Written and/or phone notification to parent/guardian of the incident.

Second Offense:

Verbal warning and removal from class. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.

Third Offense:

Detention. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.

Subsequent Offenses:

Suspension with parent/guardian conference. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.

Elementary Schools:

First Offense:

Verbal warning, removal from class with a chance to correct and return to class. Written notification to parent/guardian of the incident.

Second Offense:

Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.

Third Offense:

Detention. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.

Subsequent Offenses:

Suspension with parent/guardian conference. Written notification to parent/guardian. Clothing must be corrected.

Regulation approved:

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EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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