

Policy 4316 Student Dress Code

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Thus, the board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable, nondiscriminatory dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is substantially disruptive (for information on gang-related attire, see policy [4328](#), Gang-Related Activity);
3. is provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive, or obscene; or
4. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

Examples of prohibited dress or appearance, include, but are not limited to, exposed undergarments; sagging pants; excessively short or tight garments; bare midriff shirts; spaghetti straps; revealing tank tops; strapless shirts; attire with messages or illustrations that are lewd, indecent or vulgar or that advertise any product or service not permitted by law to minors; head coverings of any kind; see-through clothing; attire that exposes cleavage; any adornment, such as chains or spikes that reasonably could be perceived as or used as a weapon; any symbols, styles or attire (such as bandanas) frequently associated with intimidation, violence or violent groups; and any symbols, styles or attire about which students at a particular school have been notified. (See policy [4328](#), Gang-Related Activity, for more information on prohibited clothing and other items that convey membership or affiliation in a gang). The superintendent or designee will develop and maintain administrative regulations in accordance with this policy. This policy and accompanying regulations will be reviewed annually by the superintendent who will provide the board with any recommendations.

Principals at individual schools are authorized to exercise appropriate discretion in implementing this policy and administrative regulations, including making accommodations on the basis of a student's religious belief or medical condition. Principals may also specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are prohibited at their schools consistent with this policy.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy, regulations or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-390.2](#)

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy [4300](#)), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy [4302](#)), Disruptive Behavior (policy [4315](#)), Gang-Related Activity (policy [4328](#))

Adopted: August 16, 2011

Revised: May 15, 2018; December 14, 2021

Beaufort County Schools

Regulation 4316-R Student Dress Code:

(Temporary Modifications per Board of Education 02-21-2023)

Pants, Skirts, Shorts, Jumpers, Dresses, Capris, Leggings, Joggers

1. Clothing should be age appropriate, properly fitted, and suitable for the learning environment.
2. Spirit wear and district/county programs/colleges/universities are permissible.
3. Joggers, athletic pants/shorts, and sweatpants with an elastic waist are permissible.
4. Leggings with an elastic waist AND accompanied by a long shirt are permissible.
5. Overalls and coveralls are permissible.
6. Dresses, shorts, and skirts cannot be shorter than three (3) inches above the knee.
7. Approved shirt or top is required when wearing a jumper.
8. Pajama pants are not permissible to substitute as pants.
9. Hoodies and hooded jackets may not have the hood covering the head while in the school building. Hats are not permissible to wear inside the school building.

Shoes

1. Footwear must be worn at all times.
2. Footwear must conform to requirements for specific classes.
3. No spike heels or bedroom shoes.

Shirts

1. Shirts may be any color and do not require a collar.
2. Shirts may be long or short sleeve.
3. Shirts must have sleeves, cover the chest and back from arm to arm.
4. Sleeveless shirts are prohibited.
5. No spaghetti straps.
6. Shirts must be full length.
7. Mid-drifts and crop shirts are not permissible.

Additional Requirements

1. Headgear including hats, hoodies, bandanas, sunglasses, and caps are not allowed unless permitted for religious, medical, or other reasons by the school administration.
2. Pajamas, bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by the principal.
3. Attire, accessories and/or grooming depicting or advocating violence, criminal activity, gang-related activity, use of alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, pornography or substance abuse are prohibited.

The Superintendent shall exempt a student from complying with this policy when compliance would impose a substantial burden on a medical condition or the exercise of a sincerely held religious belief. A parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of a student shall submit to the superintendent a written statement explaining the medical condition or religious belief and how it is affected by the school dress code policy.

(Temporary Modifications per Board of Education 02-21-2023)