

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

1 Loudoun County Public Schools' student dress code supports equitable  
2 educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes and  
3 that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on  
4 race, color, national origin, caste, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical  
5 conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status,  
6 disability, age, or genetic information.

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8 The student dress code supports our goal of inspiring students to learn while  
9 leaving primary decisions around student clothing and style to students and their  
10 parents or guardians. Our expectation is that parents and guardians are responsible for  
11 ensuring student compliance with the school's dress code, and students are responsible  
12 for knowing the student dress code and for complying during school hours and school  
13 activities.

### 14 15 A. Values

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17 Our values are:

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19 1. All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in  
20 the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body  
21 shaming.

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23 2. A student's choice of clothing should not be blamed as a distraction to the  
24 learning environment, apart from specific violations of the dress code detailed in this  
25 policy.

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27 3. Student dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers  
28 to school attendance.

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30 4. School staff should be trained and able to use student/body-positive  
31 language to explain the code and to address code violations.

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33 5. Teachers should focus on teaching without the additional and often  
34 uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.

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36 6. Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should  
37 be minimized whenever possible.

### 38 39 A.B. Appropriate Student Attire

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41 1. Students must wear:

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- a. a shirt;
  - b. a bottom: pants, sweatpants, shorts, skirt, dress, or leggings;
  - c. shoes; and
  - d. clothing required by specialized courses or activities, such as sports uniforms or safety gear. Students must dress appropriately for gym class, wearing clothing and footwear that permits for full and safe participation in all activities.
2. Students may wear:
- a. hats, including religious headwear;
  - b. hoodie sweatshirts (hoods must be lowered during instructional time);
  - c. fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, and “skinny jeans”;
  - d. pajama pants and pajama shirts;
  - e. ripped jeans, as long as underwear is not exposed;
  - f. shirts with straps;
  - g. athletic attire;
  - h. clothing with commercial or athletic logos; and
  - i. any religiously or ethnically specific or significant clothing, head covering, or hairstyle, including hijabs, yarmulkes, headwraps, braids, locs, and cornrows.
3. Clothing and accessories in violation of dress code are those that:
- a. depict or promote illegal, violent, or lewd conduct;
  - b. depict or promote the unlawful possession or use of weapons, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other controlled

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- 83 substances;
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- 85 c. expose private parts;
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- 87 d. expose underwear (however, visible waistbands or straps on
- 88 undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation);
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- 90 e. are helmets or headgear that obscures the face (except as a
- 91 religious observance or if medically necessary);
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- 93 f. are bathing suits;
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- 95 g. include language, slogans, symbols, icons, or images that are
- 96 reasonably foreseeable to cause a material and substantial
- 97 disruption or invade the rights of others and that amount to hate
- 98 speech, are highly offensive or threatening to others, or impede or
- 99 distract from the Board's mission of instilling values necessary or
- 100 appropriate for polite civil discourse or political expression in a
- 101 school context, social tolerance, nondiscrimination, self-awareness
- 102 and sensitivity to the feeling of others. For example, displays of
- 103 certain symbols such as Confederate or Swastika images are
- 104 perceived by many as racially hostile, are associated with racial
- 105 prejudice, have been a source for conflict among students, and
- 106 could result in hatred, ill will, and emotional trauma that are all
- 107 inappropriate in the school context.
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### 109 C. Dress Code Enforcement and Responsibilities

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- 111 1. Staff are responsible for communicating and equitably enforcing the
- 112 division dress code during school hours and school-sponsored activities. To ensure
- 113 effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the
- 114 dress code consistently and in a viewpoint neutral manner using the requirements
- 115 below. Discussion about dress code violations shall be held privately and maintain the
- 116 dignity of the student.
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- 118 a. Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or
- 119 classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined above.
- 120 Enforcement should provide options for reasonable remediation of
- 121 the infraction that demonstrates respect and minimizes loss of
- 122 instructional time.
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- 124           b.     No student should be disproportionately affected by dress code  
125           enforcement because of their gender or any other protected class  
126           such as race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual  
127           orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household  
128           income, or body type/size.
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- 130           c.     Enforcement must be reasonably discreet. Students should not be  
131           shamed or required to undress or display their body in front of  
132           others (students, parents, or staff) in school. “Shaming” includes,  
133           but is not limited to: kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;  
134           measuring straps or skirt length; asking students to account for  
135           their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others; calling  
136           out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about  
137           perceived dress code violations in front of others; accusing  
138           students of “distracting” other students with their clothing.
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- 140           d.     Enforcement may include disciplinary actions that are consistent  
141           with other discipline policies and sufficiently escalatory to  
142           encourage compliance, however, violations of the dress code  
143           should generally be treated as minor infractions unless repeated or  
144           egregious in nature (e.g. streaking, hate speech).
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146           2.     Students are responsible for complying with the division dress code during  
147           school hours and school sponsored activities. Students who feel they have been  
148           subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact the Office of  
149           School Administration.

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151           2-3.    Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring student compliance with  
152           the dress code. Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodation not  
153           otherwise covered in this policy should contact the school principal or principal’s  
154           designee.

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157 [Former Policy 8-33]  
158 Adopted: 8/11/71  
159 Revised: 6/22/93, 12/13/11, 6/27/17, 8/8/17  
160 Current Revision:

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165 Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia § [22.1-79.2](#)

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167 Cross Ref: Policy [8215](#) In-School Disciplinary Measures