

STUDENT DRESS

The RSU 56 Board recognizes that responsibility for the dress and appearance of students rests with individual students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). The Board will not interfere with this right unless the personal choices of students create a disruptive influence on the school program or affect the health or safety of others.

Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. In keeping with the goals of the school unit to provide a safe, healthy, and non-discriminatory environment for educating students for maximum academic and social development, the following restrictions on dress shall be enforced.

A. Articles of clothing that promote the use of tobacco, marijuana, alcohol, other drugs or paraphernalia may not be worn on school grounds (when school is in session) or at school functions.

B. Clothing, footwear, insignia, or accessories that are intended to identify the wearer as a member of a particular gang are prohibited.

C. Articles of clothing with displays that are sexual, vulgar, lewd, or indecent or include insulting words, graphics or symbols (e.g., racial/ethnic slurs) are impermissible.

D. Clothing that inappropriately exposes one's body parts, or inappropriately exposes one's cleavage, chest, belly, buttocks, or undergarments for both males and females:

1. No more than 2" of midriff/torso showing at high school.
2. The lowest part of the neckline of shirts must meet the top of the armpit.
3. Sides of shirts must meet the armpit.
4. Shorts and/or skirts must always fully cover the butt.
5. Strapless garments are prohibited.
6. Torn clothing must not expose skin above the short/skirt level.

E. Clothing that is destructive of school property (e.g., cleats, spiked or studded clothing, pants with metal inserts that scratch furniture, etc.) are prohibited.

F. Bare feet or stocking feet are prohibited.

G. Hoods and other similar types of head or face coverings may not be worn in any school building when school is in session, except for religious/other reasons as approved by the principal.

H. Clothing with confederate flags is prohibited at all times.

I. The wearing of hats and caps shall be prohibited at the elementary schools and shall be determined by the individual teachers within their classrooms at the middle school and high school.

School administrators or teachers may require special clothing for health and safety reasons for students participating in physical education, certain extracurricular activities, work with or around machines or other activities. However, no specific brand may be required.

All Students are expected to adhere to RSU 56 dress policy. All Administrators, faculty and staff will monitor. Consequences for students who do not comply with the dress policy shall be administered as determined by the building Principal/Director, Assistant Principal/Director or designee using standard disciplinary guidelines as outlined in each school's parent/student handbook.

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of any administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

This policy will be published annually in the student handbooks.

Cross Reference: JIC- Student Code of Conduct

ENFORCEMENT

All students are expected to adhere to RSU #56 dress policy. All administrators, faculty and staff will do monitoring. Consequences for students who do not comply with the dress policy shall be administered as determined by the principal/director, assistant principal/assistant director or designee using standard disciplinary guidelines as outlined in each school's parent/student handbook.

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