

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

In accordance with **RS 17:416.7**, the Lafayette Parish School Board has adopted a standard code of dress as described below. The guidelines set forth are designed to:

- Promote school safety
- Minimize distractions and disruptions based on personal appearance, grooming, hygiene, and attire
- Prevent clothing, jewelry and general appearance that constitute a health or safety hazard
- Prevent clothing styles that are suggestive, indecent or inappropriately fitted
- Foster an attitude of respect for authority, improve morale and prepare students to enter a work force that often has rules regarding dress, conduct and appearance

When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school. In addition, the student may also receive a disciplinary consequence for violating the school's dress code policy.

Verify Uniforms Through a School Official

Parents should not rely on stores for information regarding Lafayette Parish uniforms. Parents should call their school or the Lafayette Parish School System Central Office for information before buying uniforms.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- FIT:** A student's clothing should not be excessively tight or excessively large. Parents should buy clothing that fits appropriately and can be worn without exposing undergarments. Clothing should have no exaggerated fit which would promote sagging. Clothes so small that mid-drifts are exposed is not allowed. The Principal or designee's determination as to whether or not clothing is appropriate to the student's body size shall be determinative and final.
- STYLE:** A student's clothing should be free from holes, frayed edges, or tears. They should not be see-through.
- CONTENT:** No clothing should contain anything that would be offensive in nature to any population of students. Clothing may not promote anything prohibited by LPSS discipline policy (tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and violence).
- SCHOOL SPIRIT:** All clothing worn must represent the school the student is enrolled in and attending. Students may not wear clothing from any other public, private or parochial school. University or professional sports teams may be worn.
- RESPECT OF THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT:** Although we recognize the inherent desire of young people to express themselves through clothing and grooming, we must insist that students respect the educational environment. Persistently distracting clothing or grooming will not be permitted regardless if it is specified precisely within the guides below. The final decision of all dress regulations resides with the building principal.
- Parents are encouraged to have at least one set of long uniform pants for students for inclement and cold weather.

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS *continued*

CLOTHING

SHIRTS

A. COLOR

All Elementary and Middle Schools: Red, white or navy blue

High Schools:

- Acadiana High School: hunter green polo
- Carencro High School: navy polo
- David Thibodaux Career and Technical High School: royal blue polo
- Early College Academy: follows the dress code of South Louisiana Community College
- Edward J Sam Accelerated School: school specific t-shirts purchased at the school
- Lafayette High School: black polo
- Northside High School: red polo
- Alternative School: shirts purchased at the school
- Ovey Comeaux High School: navy polo
- Southside High School: gray polo.

B. OPTIONS

- Elementary: Polo-style or uniform-style dresses or jumpers.

C. STYLE

- Short or long sleeve colored polo style golf shirts in designated colors.
- Approved school t-shirts may be worn on any day of the week with school uniform bottoms
- Polo style shirts may not have large emblems, logos or decoration.

BOTTOMS

A. COLOR:

- All Elementary and Middle Schools: khaki or navy blue
- High Schools: khaki or navy blue

B. OPTIONS:

- BOYS: uniform style pants or shorts
- GIRLS: uniform style pants, shorts, capris, skirts, skorts, or jumpers

C. STYLE:

- No wind suits, gym shorts, leggings, jeans, jeggings, joggers, or sweat pants allowed
- No cargo pockets
- **Slacks and shorts must fit at the waist**
- Neither under garments nor any part of the midsection should be visible
- Pants cannot slip when walking. **Sagging is not allowed and is strictly enforced**
- Length for skirts, skorts, shorts, and jumpers must not be shorter than 4" above the knee

SOCKS/TIGHTS

Students are allowed to wear school appropriate socks and tights.

SHOES

STYLE:

- All: Closed toe and closed back shoes must be worn at all times. . Must be a matching pair of shoes. No sling backs, slides, slippers, crocs, or straps in the back due to safety concerns.
- Elementary school: In addition to above, no heeled shoes or boots due to safety concerns. Non-skid and/or tennis shoes preferable.

OUTER WEAR

A. FIT: All outerwear must be of reasonable fit.

B. STYLE: No hoodies or hoods on sweatshirts allowed. Jackets and coats can have hoods during cold or inclement weather, but the hood may only be worn OUTSIDE.

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS *continued*

HEADWEAR

- A. Hats, caps, sweatbands, earmuffs and bandannas, bandanna wraps, or any bandanna prints are not allowed.
- B. Knit caps may be worn outside only in extremely cold weather.

GROOMING

HAIR & FACIAL HAIR

- A. COLOR: Elementary and Middle School: Unnaturally colored hair, highlights, braids, and/or extensions are not allowed. (Unnatural is defined as not naturally occurring on people)
- B. STYLE: All School Students: Extremes in hairstyles that are deemed distracting to the learning environment are not permitted.

JEWELRY

- A. STYLE:
 - Elementary Schools: Earrings must be studs only. No other visible piercings allowed.
 - Middle Schools: Earrings may be no larger than a quarter. No other visible piercings other than in the ears. No tongue piercings.
 - High School: No other visible piercings other than in the ears. No tongue piercings.

BODY DECORATIONS

- Elementary Schools: No artificial or acrylic nails, painted faces or other distracting makeup.
- Middle Schools: No artificial or acrylic nails, painted faces or other distracting makeup. Nails should be no longer than ¼ inch.
- All Levels: Tattoos that are offensive or vulgar in nature will have to be covered at all times

BOOK BAGS

- A. COLOR:
 - Elementary: no restriction
 - Middle and High: mesh or clear
- B. STYLE:
 - Schools may prohibit book sacks with wheels due to safety reasons.
 - Approved extracurricular bags must be stowed in assigned area as designated by each school.
 - **Students are allowed to carry and possess bullet-resistant metal or similar resistant material backpacks.**

IDENTIFICATION

School IDs must be displayed at all times while on campus. They must be worn on a lanyard around the neck or clipped to the shirt collar. IDs must have the national and local suicide hotline phone numbers printed on them.

EMBLEMS AND INSIGNIA

Any combination of clothing and jewelry that law enforcement agencies currently consider gang-related are not permitted. Discriminatory, obscene or drug/alcohol related emblems, insignia, jewelry, signs, speech or literature that is discriminatory, inflammatory or derogatory toward any sex, race, nationality, creed, political or philosophical group, is obscene or contains profanity, or makes reference to drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco are not permitted.

ENFORCEMENT AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE STUDENT DRESS CODE

Principal's Discretion to Make Uniform Exceptions

Principals may declare spirit days and allow students to wear school spirit shirts, or dress-up days (such as when school pictures are scheduled). Principals may determine guidelines for belts and the tucking of shirts. Principals may also allow students to wear other uniforms such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, chorus, etc. Other questions about uniforms should be referred first to the school principal. Special dress days where fundraising monies are collected, must be approved by the superintendent.

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS *continued*

Dress Code in Special Classes

Students must follow the rules of appropriate dress as dictated by the needs of special classes (i.e. physical education, industrial arts, consumer science, etc.)

Exceptions for Religious Reasons

Requests for religious exceptions to the dress code must be made to the Office of Child Welfare & Attendance, who will explore the basis for the exception and determine if the exception is warranted. An individual requesting an exception bears the burden of demonstrating the following:

- The individual has a legitimate religious belief that conflicts with the Lafayette Parish School System student dress code.
- The dress or grooming of the student is a documented expression of his or her religious belief.
- The dress or grooming beliefs are rooted in religion and required by his or her religious practice.
- The individual has a sincerely held belief that enforcement of the student dress code will have a coercive effect that will operate to prevent his or her exercise of those religious beliefs.

Any student requesting an exception from the student uniform dress code for religious reasons must produce to the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance documentation establishing the legitimate existence of the religion and evidence of the grooming or dress as rooted in religion and as necessary while in school. The Office of Child Welfare and Attendance may deny a request if, in his or her judgment, the requested exception poses a danger to the student requesting the exception or to any student attending school in the system. All requests for exceptions must be made prior to any actions that would otherwise be a violation of the student uniform dress code.

Final Judgment Resides with the Building Administrator

The principal will make the final decision if the clothing, hair, jewelry and general appearance of a student meet the Lafayette Parish School System's school uniform and appearance guidelines explained above.

Violation of Dress Code Policy:

Any student who violates the student dress code will be subject to school disciplinary action. Appeals and/or clarification regarding the discipline of a student for improper dress code should be directed to the school principal or designee.