

Policy

DRESS & GROOMING

The Alloway Township School District recognizes each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the student's personal style and individual preferences. The board will impose its judgment on students and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) only when a student's dress and grooming affect the educational program of the schools.

All dress should be clean, safe, modest, and in general, should not be distracting to others. We encourage all to behave and dress in a way that is in good taste and in a style appropriate for school. The following items are not permitted:

1. Articles of clothing that have indecent writings, pictures or slogans;
2. Bare midriffs, hats/bandanas; and
3. Non-prescription sunglasses or bare feet. Bare feet, beachwear, and pajamas are not considered appropriate for normal school attire.

This dress code is written deliberately without reference to an exhaustive list of specific clothing items that would be considered inappropriate for school. Recognizing that styles change frequently, our dress code was designed to establish a set of guidelines that would create a "general sense" of what would be acceptable clothing for students in school. Some of the key words or phrases in this guide include "clean", "safe", "modest", "not distracting", and "in good taste". In the context of current styles, these words suggest the following items would not be considered acceptable dress for school:

1. Skirts, shorts, and pants worn below the hip line
2. "See-through" clothing that exposes undergarments or anatomy
3. Very short shorts or very short skirts
4. "Spaghetti" strap tops that expose undergarments
5. Tops with low neck/back line, tube tops, halter tops (although tube tops and halter tops may be worn under a shirt or covering)
6. Undergarments worn as outer clothing or low riding pants or shorts that expose undergarments
7. Clothing that is overly soiled, torn, worn, or defaced
8. Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene

For all school functions, such as dances, field trips, parties, etc., students are to conform to the type of dress deemed appropriate by the sponsoring organizations. The building principal shall determine whether the dress or grooming of students comes within these prohibitions. Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

The chief school administrator shall, in consultation with staff members, students, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), prepare a dress code that imposes only minimum and necessary limitations on a student's taste and individuality.

The board and administration encourage parents to monitor their child's dress in accordance with the above guidelines in the belief that the ultimate responsibility for setting guidelines rests with adults - parents, teachers, and administrators. A letter will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) each year outlining the policy.

Enforcement

1. Teaching staff members will report perceived violations of the dress code to the building principal or designee, who will interpret and apply the code. Without exception, students found in violation of this regulation by the principal or designee of the school where the violation occurs,

shall be taken from the student population and dismissed to home and/or re-entered into the student population only after the offending dress item is changed or rectified.

2. Students who publicly represent the school or a school organization at an activity away from the school district are required to dress in full accordance with the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge of the activity and pursuant to this dress and grooming regulation. Students unwilling to comply with this requirement will disqualify themselves from participation.
3. Students will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip, or after-school activity unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with this dress code and the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge.
4. The principal may waive application of the dress code for special school activity days.
5. A student whose dress or grooming has been found by the principal or designee to violate this policy may appeal the determination to the chief school administrator.

Adopted:

Revised:

NJSBA Review/Update: April 2025

Readopted:

Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A.11-1 General mandatory powers and duties

Possible

Cross References: *5131 Student Conduct and Discipline
*5142 Student Safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.