

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Dress and Grooming
Number	221
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Adopted	May 27, 2010
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Purpose

The Board recognizes the right of every student to freedom of expression, both in speech and the wearing of apparel, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Board also recognizes its paramount obligation to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the students who attend its schools.

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The Board further recognizes its responsibility to maintain a positive learning environment in the schools under its jurisdiction and to minimize the opportunity for student distraction and/or disruption.

The Board believes that a policy of uniform dress will address the issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of the students attending schools and will further aid in the maintenance of a positive learning environment.

Authority

The Board has the authority to impose limitations on students' dress in school. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to enforce established school regulations governing student dress and grooming practices.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, shop classes, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student. [\[2\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy which designates the building principal to monitor student dress and grooming in his/her building and instruct staff members to demonstrate, by example, positive attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance. [\[3\]](#)

Students have the responsibility to keep themselves, their clothes, and their hair clean. School officials may impose limitations on student participation in the regular instructional program where there is evidence that the lack of cleanliness constitutes a health hazard. [\[2\]](#)

Guidelines

Parents/Guardians must be mindful that dress which may be distracting or disruptive to the learning process will not be tolerated. Any student violating this dress code will be considered insubordinate and dealt with according to the following penalties:

1. First Offense – Notify parents/guardians to bring in appropriate clothing. Student will remain in an area designated by the principal until proper attire is provided by the parent/guardian.
2. Second Offense – Parent/Guardian meeting is required. Student will remain in an area designated by the principal and assigned detention.
3. Third Offense – Parent/Guardian meeting is required. Out-of-school suspension will occur.

Repeated violations of the standard dress code shall be treated as disruptive behavior.

School administrators have the final responsibility for interpretation and enforcement. School administrators may give permission for students to dress outside the parameters of the dress code guidelines on planned occasions. Examples may include, but are not limited to, Spirit Days, Read Across America Day, Picture Day, Incentive Days, and JROTC Activities.

The following dress and grooming guidelines shall apply to all students in grades K through 12:

1. All students in grades K through 12 shall be subject to a uniform dress code consisting of:
 - a. Solid khaki, grey or black full-length pants or capri pants.
 - b. Solid khaki, grey or black skirts or jumpers.

Solid khaki, grey or black shorts are permitted in grades K-5.
 - c. Solid colored shirt in black, gold, white or grey.

Solid colored sweaters in black, gold, white or grey.
 - d. No black-on-black.
2. Pants will be straight-legged dress or casual slacks in the permitted colors. Pants may not be of the cargo or carpenter style with pockets below the hips, loops, straps, elastic ankles or other comparable adornments. Pants must be worn at the waist and fit comfortably. Excessively tight or baggy pants will not be permitted. Pants must be of an appropriate length so as to not drag on the floor. Garments worn so as to expose underwear will be in defiance of the dress code. Leggings may not be worn separately as dress policy pants, but may be worn under dress code appropriate skirts or capris. Leggings can only be black, white, gold or grey solid or opaque.
3. Students are permitted to wear skirts or jumpers that are knee-length or longer in the permitted colors. Students in grades K-5 are permitted to wear shorts that are knee-length or longer in the permitted colors.

Pants, capri pants, shorts, skirts or jumpers made of denim and/or leather material may not be worn.
4. Shirts will be collared, long or short-sleeved, pullover, or golf-style, appropriately sized, buttoned to the base of the neck and of solid color. Students may opt to wear a dress shirt, appropriately sized, buttoned to the base of the neck and tucked in. Students may wear solid turtleneck or crewneck shirts under the regulation shirt or sweater. Sweaters can be a full torso cardigan, vest, V-Neck or crew in style. See-through shirts are not permitted to ensure garments or accessories worn underneath are not visible. Students may also elect to wear the turtleneck shirt as the primary garment. All shirts must have sleeves which cover the shoulders. Tank tops, sleeveless tops, shells, mesh tops, sheer tops, bare midriffs or any other garment that expose the upper torso will not be permitted. Hooded sweaters are not permitted. Only the Panther Valley logo or a logo from a PVSD activity is permitted, which measures no larger than 3" x 4" on the left chest panel.
5. For safety reasons, the district reserves the right to insist upon age appropriate footwear.

Shoes will be brown, black, tan, burgundy or grey with laces to match the dominant color of the shoe. Shoes must be close-toed. Shoes with excessive heels, boots, and sandals are prohibited. All footwear must have a back which secures the shoe to the foot. Sneakers are permitted and must be predominantly white, black, brown, or tan. Socks may be grey, black, brown, tan or white. If the footwear is designed to have laces, the laces must be in the footwear and tied. No flip-flops will be permitted.

6. There shall be no clothing worn with messages, written or symbolic, pertaining to but not limited to drug, alcohol, or tobacco messages, references to illegal substances, implications of an obscene or sexual nature, negative comments about another's culture, references to racist or hate groups, or violence.
7. Mutilation of clothing, which includes purposely cutting holes or tearing required clothing, will not be permitted.
8. Unacceptable tops – Manufacturers' logos are not permitted on any dress policy tops. Logos, designs or embroidery on shirts may not be covered with tape, pins or any covering other than a fully secured (sewn) PVSD logo. No visible designer emblems or manufacturers' logos or tags are allowed on tops except for the PVSD logo or the logo of the PVSD activities.
9. Jewelry and other adornments:
 - a. The district recognizes the right of the students to wear jewelry and other adornments. However, certain jewelry and other adornments and the manner in which they are worn or displayed may not be appropriate under certain circumstances, and may pose a danger to the safety and welfare of the student or to the other students or staff, and may pose a threat to or interruption of the education process.
 - b. In the case of the day-to-day school environment, the administration and/or teaching staff may require that the students remove any jewelry and other adornments which might reasonably be considered as posing a threat to the safety of the student, other students or staff, or as posing a threat to or interruption of the education process.
 - c. Earrings and body rings worn at locations other than the ears are not allowed. Specifically, those worn in the nose, eyebrow, tongue, cheek, or any other visible location besides the ears is not acceptable.
 - d. The piercing body parts and the insertion of jewelry or other objects which result in bleeding, oozing of bodily fluids or other physical condition which may reasonably pose a danger to the student or others is considered inappropriate and unacceptable.
 - e. There shall be no chains worn other than those designed as a necklace or bracelet.
 - f. Hair coloring of a fluorescent or nontypical color shall not be permitted. Hair length that impedes one's vision shall not be permitted.
 - g. Hats, handkerchiefs, or other similar headwear may not be worn in the school building during regular school hours, except for religious or health reasons.
 - h. Sunglasses are not permitted inside the building unless required by an attending physician.
 - i. Accessories deemed to be distracting, disruptive or offensive in nature are prohibited.
10. Clothing should be clean, not excessively stained or faded, tidy and free from tears, holes, and fraying.
11. Upon enrollment in the district, new students will be granted a grace period of two (2) weeks before being required to conform to the dress code.

12. Due to the educational environment at the elementary and intermediate level and requirements for physical education and other activities such as recess, students in grades K-6 will be permitted the following accommodations: sneakers will be permitted; knee-length shorts will be permitted only at the K-3 building; and boots will be permitted in inclement weather.

Physical education class: Students in grades K-5 will be permitted to wear tee shirts, sweat shirts, and sweat pants of black, gold, grey or white. Knee length shorts of black, gold, grey or white will be permitted.

13. Purses larger than 10" x 10" will not be permitted.

Religious Exemption

If the parent/guardian of a student or the student has what they consider to be a bona fide religious belief which precludes strict adherence to the dress and grooming guidelines, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must fill out the appropriate waiver form and submit all other documentation reasonably required by the administration to establish their objection.

Parents/Guardians requesting an exemption from these guidelines will be required to meet with the Superintendent or his/her designee to discuss the guidelines and the nature of the objection necessitating a waiver. Following this meeting, the Superintendent shall render a written decision, approving or denying the requested waiver.

If the parents/guardians do not agree with the Superintendent's decision, the parents/guardians may request, in writing, a nonpublic meeting with a designated committee of the Board. The decision of the committee following this meeting shall be in writing.

Any exemption from these guidelines granted by the Superintendent or the designated committee of the Board shall be limited to the minimum variance from the guidelines necessary in light of the specific, bona fide religious belief, which precludes strict compliance. The exception as allowed will be clearly stated.

Any exemption granted will apply only to the current school year. If an exemption for a subsequent year is requested from a parent/guardian whose child was enrolled at the conclusion of the previous year, the applications for exemption must be submitted to the Superintendent prior to July committee meetings. This procedure shall ensure a decision on the application for exemption prior to the beginning of the first student day of the school year.

Economic Hardship

Any parent/guardian whose child(ren) is deemed to suffer as a result of a perceived economic hardship is directed to complete a request for waiver form and submit it through the building principal's office. Such cases will be reviewed case-by-case.

- Legal
1. [24 P.S. 1317.3](#)
 2. [22 PA Code 12.11](#)
 3. Pol. 325