

## 5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education recognizes each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the student's personal style and preferences. Students will be required to dress in a manner that reflects good taste, modesty, and appropriateness for an educational learning environment.

The Board of Education prohibits students from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel, or accessory which indicates the student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang or association with criminal activities. Local law enforcement agencies will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

Interpretation and expansion of the dress code at the school level shall be overseen by the Superintendent and shall be consistent across schools serving the same grade levels.

### Dress Code Implementation

The goal of the Board of Education is to provide our students with an environment that allows students to focus on academic issues instead of other issues.

- The implementation of the dress code policy will be as of the first day of school and will affect all of the schools in the Lindenwold School District at all grade levels.
- Students that are new to the district will be expected to comply upon beginning their first day of school in the Lindenwold School District.

### Dress Code

#### ○ Pants/skirts

- Sweatpants and joggers may be worn in any color.
- Jeans/pants may be worn **without** rips and/or tears.
- Leggings may be worn **ONLY** with a top that comes to one's thigh (approximately 4 inches above the knee).
- Shorts may be worn as long as they are at the end of fingertip length (approximately 4 inches above the knee).
- Mesh pants and mesh materials are not permitted.
- Pajama bottoms and/or flannel pants are not permitted.
- Sagging pants are not permitted. Pants should be secured on waist at all times.



- Shirts/blouses
  - Shirts may have school appropriate writings, patterns, and/or graphics in any color.
  - Brand name logos on shirts are permitted.
  - Bare midriffs, crop tops, cut-off shirts, or any clothing showing one's stomach or mid-to-low back are not permitted.
- Dresses
  - Dresses must be the appropriate length. Length must be no shorter than fingertip length (approximately 4 inches above the knee).
  - Dress sleeves must be beyond one's shoulders.
  - Dresses with spaghetti straps or tank straps must be worn under a cardigan, sweater, blazer, etc.
- Footwear
  - Appropriate footwear should be worn at all times, such as shoes, sneakers, etc. All foot wear must be secured to the student's feet.
  - The soles of one's shoes should reflect an "outdoor" sole.
  - Crocs are permitted if they are worn in "sport" mode (with a strap secured to the back of one's heel).
  - Flip-flops, slides, clogs, slippers, or thongs are not permitted for safety reasons.
- Other
  - Hats of any kind (knit caps, ball caps, etc.), sweatbands, or combs/picks are not to be worn in the building. The only exceptions are for medical or religious reasons. Both exceptions require official documentation.
  - Sunglasses or glasses with dark lenses may not be worn in the building without a doctor's note.
  - Outdoor garments, blankets, coats, hats, hoods, and gloves may not be worn inside the building after the homeroom bell rings. Students are expected to keep those items in their lockers during the day.
- Limitations
  - Students may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that present a health or safety hazard to the individual student or to others.
  - Clothing may not materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or create a disruption in the educational program.



- Students may not wear clothing or accessories which cause excessive wear or damage to school property or others
- Students may not wear clothing that prevents the student or others from achieving their educational objectives.
- Clothing that contains suggestive, derogatory, racially offensive, obscene language or clothing that makes reference to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or other illegal substances are prohibited.
- Clothing that makes reference to criminal/illegal activity or gang activity are prohibited.

### Dress Code Violations

Enforcement of the dress code will be done without regard to race, ethnicity, age, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, disability, or other diverse background. Building administration will make the final determination if a student's attire meets the approved dress code.

Students choosing not to wear the approved dress attire will be disciplined as indicated in each school's Code of Conduct. Students will always be given the opportunity to change into an appropriate outfit if at all possible before any discipline action is taken. When a student does not comply and has been given the opportunity to change clothing, an alternate learning placement for the day will be made available for them as necessary. However, the goal as a district is to always use exclusion from school activities and classroom experiences as a last resort.

### Annual Evaluation

An evaluation of the uniform school dress code will be reviewed annually with the Building Principal and the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 11 December 2017

Revised: 22 August 2022

Revised:

