

GENERAL CODE OF APPEARANCE

Administrators and teachers of the Duval County Public Schools shall enforce dress and grooming guidelines that promote the successful operation of the schools. The site administration shall be the final judge as to neatness and cleanliness of wearing apparel and whether or not such apparel is appropriate, disruptive, distracting, or in violation of health and safety rules. **The General Code of Appearance shall not restrict the school administration's authority to implement the School Board's Policy on Student Uniforms.**

Each student has the responsibility to dress appropriately for the school environment. Wearing apparel, jewelry (such as body piercing(s) ornaments) hair, and general appearance shall not disrupt the classroom atmosphere, shall not be unusually provocative, and/or shall not violate health and safety rules of the school. These guidelines for dress and grooming are provided to assist parents and shall apply to all students in the public schools of Duval County. Student dress and grooming shall be neat and clean, and follow the general guidelines below.

- ❖ Elementary School students are not allowed to wear shoes without closed heels or back straps.
- ❖ Shoes must be worn. However, bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn.
- ❖ Halter-tops, tank tops, backless tops, top with thin or no straps, or tops that show midriff or expose the body are prohibited.
- ❖ See-through or mesh garments shall not be worn without appropriate undergarments.
- ❖ Form-fitting or overly tight clothing shall not be worn without appropriate outer garments.
- ❖ Properly hemmed outer garments such as shorts, divided skirts, and dresses may be worn, provided they are not disruptive or distracting, as determined by the school administration. Garments including, but not limited to such items as boxer shorts, traditionally designed as undergarments, may not be worn as outer garments.
- ❖ Clothing and accessories shall not be worn if they display profanity, violence, lewd and obscene messages, sexually suggestive phrases, or advertisements, phrases or symbols of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs or other symbols phrases or advertisements that would be offensive to common propriety or decency.
- ❖ Head coverings, including, but not limited to, caps, hats, bandannas, hair curlers, and/or sunglasses, shall not be worn on school property, unless required by a physician or authorized by school personnel.
- ❖ The waistband of shorts, slacks, skirts, and similar garments shall not be worn below the hips. Underwear, midriff and back may not be exposed. If belts, suspenders, and straps are worn, they shall be worn in place and fastened.
- ❖ Any articles of clothing or jewelry that may cause injury to oneself or to other students are not allowed.
- ❖ Wearing apparel, jewelry (such as body piercing(s) ornaments) hair, and general appearance shall not disrupt the classroom atmosphere, shall not be unusually provocative, and/or shall not violate health and safety rules of the school.

All students must adhere to these minimal guidelines for acceptable apparel and appearance. In order to maximize instructional time, students will be given an opportunity to immediately correct dress code violations.

Disciplinary Actions:

- 1st Offense – Phone call to the parents
- 2nd Offense – Principal/designee assigned in-school suspension/detention and phone call to parents
- 3rd Offense – Parent/child dress code contract
- 4th Offense – Dress code contract violations may be defined as a Class 2.23 offense and may warrant disciplinary action as outlined under Class II offenses.

The alternative schools (Lackawanna Alternative Center, Mattie Rutherford Alternative Center, Grand Park Career Center, Marine Science Center) will be allowed to establish higher dress standards and to take appropriate disciplinary action for dress code violations.

This code of appearance shall also apply to all school-sponsored activities and events, unless otherwise authorized by school administration.