

12. **Dress Code:** Good personal appearance, appropriate dress, proper behavior, and cleanliness are vital to each member of the school community. Developing good tastes in attire, good grooming habits, and good behavior are a part of the educational program. Students of the Laurens County School System are expected to dress in a manner that is supportive of a positive learning environment that is free of distractions and disruptions. There is a direct correlation between student dress and student behavior. Students will be expected to observe modes of dress, styles of hair, and personal grooming which support the learning environment. The purpose of this dress code is to assure that consistency and interpretation is implemented county-wide, thus providing equitable treatment for all students. In making a judgment concerning the appropriateness of a student's dress or grooming, the principal should adhere to the guidelines set forth in the procedures that accompany this policy. The principal of the school is charged with the enforcement of the student dress code. The principal is given wide latitude of discretion in the determination of proper or improper dress and behavior of students. Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code are subject to disciplinary action.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL (6-12)

1. All items of clothing should be clean and appropriate for school. They should not be too tight, improperly revealing, or allow undergarments to be seen.
2. Garments, jewelry, or articles of clothing should not display emblems related to alcohol, illegal or abusive substances, gangs, violence, sex, or obscenities. Clothing must be free of words or symbols that are offensive or demeaning to others. This guideline applies to clothing worn at any school function.
3. Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than the top of the knee while standing.
4. If leggings are worn in place of pants, the shirt must extend to midway between fingertip length and the top of the knee while standing.
5. Holes in jeans, pants, shorts, or skirts must be below the required shorts length and modest in size. Holes above the specified short/skirt/dress length are allowed as long as no skin is showing and the hole is a reasonable size.
6. Shoulder straps on shirts with no sleeves must not be less than 3" wide for girls. Boys are not allowed to wear tank tops/sleeveless shirts
7. Shirts must be long enough to tuck in. Midriffs and undergarments must be covered.
8. Shorts, pants, and skirts must be worn at waist level. Clothing should be properly fitted to prevent sagging of pants or shorts.
9. Pants should not extend below the heel of the shoe. Sagging, extremely baggy or wide pant legs, which present a safety hazard, are not to be worn at school.
10. Hats, caps, sweatbands, bandannas, sunglasses, goggles, or other head coverings are not permitted in the building.
11. Shoes must be worn at all times and should be appropriate for school activities. (For example, bedroom shoes and cleats are not permitted at school.)
12. Pajamas, sleep or loungewear are prohibited.
13. Long/trench coats are prohibited.

Any student whose dress is in question should be referred to an administrator for a decision. Students will be allowed to call a parent for a change of clothes on the first offense only. For every subsequent offense, the student will be placed in ISS for the remainder of the school day. If required, the administration may ask a student to turn

a shirt/blouse inside-out if the garment contains writing or an image that is inappropriate for school.

****NOTE:** Certain school environments or classes may require more restrictive dress due to safety issues. (Ex: CTAE/Connection classes, science labs, physical education) Students are expected to comply with safety guidelines. Student dress and appearance are the responsibility of the student and parent. All teachers and administrators will enforce the dress code every day.