

## STUDENT DRESS

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. recognizes that responsibility for the dress and appearance of students rests with individual students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). The School Committee will not interfere with this right unless the personal choices of students creates a disruptive influence on the school program or affects the health or safety of others.

Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. In keeping with the goals of the district to provide a safe, healthy, and non-discriminatory environment for educating students for maximum academic and social development, the following restrictions on dress shall be enforced.

- A. Articles of clothing which promote the use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs may not be worn on school grounds (when school is in session) or at school functions.
- B. Clothing, footwear, insignia, or accessories that are intended to identify the wearer as a member of a particular gang are prohibited.  
A "gang" is defined as an association or group of individuals, whether formal or informal, which identifies itself through the use of a name, unique appearance or language, identifying sign or symbol, the claiming of geographical territory or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that can lead to criminal or violent activity, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal or violent activity.
- C. Articles of clothing that are sexual, vulgar, lewd, indecent, or include insulting words (e.g., racial/ethnic slurs) are impermissible.
- D. Clothing that is destructive of school property (e.g., cleats, pants with metal inserts that scratch furniture) is not permitted.
- E. No jewelry or accessories that could be used as a weapon, mar or destroy school property, or pose a safety risk to the student or others will be allowed.
- F. Articles of clothing that are revealing are not permitted, including, but not limited to, one-shoulder shirts, low-cut tops, spaghetti straps, halters, short shirts, skirts more than six (6) inches above the knee, bare-backed shirts and pants/shorts worn in a manner to reveal underwear or bare skin between the upper chest and mid-thigh.
- G. Hats may not be worn in school.

School administrators or teachers may require special clothing for health and safety reasons for students participating in physical education, certain extra-curricular activities, work with or around machines or other activities. However, no particular brand may be required.

The school administration has the authority to prohibit other logos, pictures, or messages which they determine to be disruptive to the school's learning environment.

Students who come to school dressed inappropriately will receive a warning, and depending upon the infraction, may be sent home to change. Administrators have the authority to suspend students for severe and/or repeated infractions of the dress code. Infractions that directly interfere with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school may be disciplined in accordance with other applicable School Committee policies.

Determinations of individual instances will be made by the administration. All school time lost on such occasions must be made up after school on the same day or days following upon judgment of the administration. Repeated infractions will be subject to further disciplinary action.

A summary of this policy will be published annually in student handbooks.

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of any administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Adopted by the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee: 03/06/02  
Revised by the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee: 08/01/03