

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The policy of the Livingston Parish School Board shall be that no mode of attire shall be considered proper for school wear that disrupts the classroom and/or the school's positive learning environment. In questions regarding student dress and grooming, the principal or his/her designee of each school shall make the final decision based on this policy as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided.

The Livingston Parish School Board is responsible for achieving a systemwide dress code for appearance and dress among students that will promote the best atmosphere for teaching and learning.

NOTIFICATION

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date. The dress code shall be distributed in written form or posted on the school's website annually.

If the School Board modifies the existing uniform policy, it shall notify, in writing the parent or guardian of each student of the policy adoption or uniform policy modification at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy. Each school shall display any uniform selected for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective date for wearing of the uniform.

However, nothing shall prohibit the School Board from requiring a new or revised dress code or uniform policy without the required notice in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this policy, *emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

DRESS AND PERSONAL GROOMING

It is the responsibility of each student to use good judgment regarding appearance and attire. Cleanliness shall be a basic consideration. Any complaint concerning a student's dress and appearance shall be addressed by the particular school's administration. The principal of the particular school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper attire and appearance. In the event that health and medical considerations for a particular student require an exception to the *Dress Code*, the principal of the particular school shall determine that exception and make his/her faculty and staff aware of the exception.

The School Board shall not exclude a student on account of a natural, protective or cultural hairstyle. *Natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle* shall include, but is not limited to, afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural significance.

The following guidelines have been established regarding all students' dress and appearance:

1. Styles of dress and grooming never should be such that they represent a collective or individual protest.
2. Appropriate footwear must be worn to school (no shower shoes, flip-flops).
3. Caps, hats, unprescribed glasses are not permitted.
4. Patches, decorations, slogans, symbols, tags, marks, or advertisements are prohibited. (Examples: beer, cigarettes, drugs, obscene suggestions, sexual connotations, political, etc.)
5. Earrings are allowed for students provided they are not a safety concern or a distraction on campus.
6. Piercings, other than ears, are not permitted. Clear (concise stud only) pierce hole fillers are allowed for nose rings.
7. Jewelry, including earrings, worn during the school day should be a size and dimension that is not a safety concern or a distraction on campus.
8. Hair should be neat, clean, and out of the student's eyes. Students should have natural hair color. Extreme unnatural colors are not allowed. Sculptured hair styles that include pictures, symbols, letters, numbers, or hair curlers, rollers or excessively teased will not be permitted. Principals have discretion if a hairstyle including accessories interferes with learning.
9. Neatly groomed facial hair is acceptable, including mustaches, beards and goatees.
10. Tattoos that are vulgar, obscene, political, offensive or otherwise disruptive to the school environment are not permitted and must be covered at all times.
11. Foundation garments must be worn.
12. Dress during any period where uniforms are not required, such as special event days, or for transferring students, shall be consistent with the intent and spirit of the *School Uniform Dress Code*.

Dress Code in Special Classes

Students must follow the rules of appropriate dress as directed by the needs of special classes (i.e. physical education, industrial arts, agriscience, etc.) due to safety concerns.

SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE

The School Board is permitted by state law to adopt dress codes mandating the use of school uniforms. The purpose of the *School Uniform Dress Code* shall be to provide additional opportunities for increased school safety; to encourage students to experience a greater sense of school identity and belonging; to encourage an improvement in student behavior; and to encourage a high level of program participation.

Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 12:

Note: A color chart for skirts/shorts/slacks/skorts will be displayed to clarify the color range of Khaki.

Shirt:

- Solid color: Navy blue or white.
- Polo: (golf-boxed, hemmed) two, three or four buttons at the top front with collar (Short or Long sleeves) - Elementary students shall be encouraged to tuck in shirts. Middle/Junior High and High school students shall be required to tuck in shirts.
- Oxford/dress shirt (short or long sleeves) Elementary students shall be encouraged to tuck in shirts. Middle/Junior High and High school students shall be required to tuck in shirts.
- Designs, emblems, insignias, monograms and logos are prohibited.
- Under-shirts and t-shirts, if worn must be white, gray or black and can only be worn underneath the standard uniform.
- If applicable, school issued spirit shirt may be worn in place of the uniform polo on designated day set by the principal. Shall not exceed one time per week.

Pants, Skirts, Shorts, Skorts, Jumpers:

- Solid color: Khaki
- No jean, knit, jegging, stretch, cargo, capri, or cropped styles.
- Appropriate fit: not too loose, not too tight; no sagging.
- Elementary students may have elastic waist pants with or without belt loops (belts are optional, but encouraged).

- Middle/junior/high school students' pants must have belt loops and a belt is mandatory.
- Must be worn at waistline,
- Skirts should be to top of kneecap.
- Jumpers should be to top of kneecap; not allowed for 9-12.
- Shorts/Skort: Top of knee to four (4) inches above knee; length cannot be below the knees; length can be cuffed or not cuffed,
- The only logos allowed should be the manufacturer's label.
- All bottoms must be hemmed.

Belts:

- PK-5: Belts are not required, but encouraged.
- Grades 6-12: Belt required with clothing designed with belt loops, any color, no inappropriate logos or slogans. Belts are to be worn correctly and buckles are not to be excessive size or offensive in design. Studs and spikes are prohibited.

Socks/ Hose/Tights:

If worn

- Socks may not have inappropriate or offensive wording or images. Socks above the knee are prohibited.
- Tights/Leggings solid color black, gray, navy blue or white (May only be worn under skirts/dresses/jumpers). Tights must be full length reaching the ankle.

Pullovers:

- Solid Navy blue or White (¾ zip, crew, hoodies, sweaters) are allowed. A pullover cannot be worn in place of shirt nor be so large that it conceals a student's bottom garment. Designs, emblems, insignias, monograms and logos are prohibited
- Any spirit pullover purchased from the school or a vendor with the school name or logo is acceptable.

Shoes:

- Closed-toe and closed-heel shoes are mandatory (tennis shoes, dress shoes, casual shoes or slip-on shoes or boots).
- Footwear shall not extend above the knee.
- Shoes shall be properly tied or strapped, if applicable.

Coats:

- Coat/jacket/sweater may be worn as long as the uniform shirt collar is revealed under the coat/jacket/sweater (trenchcoats are prohibited)
- Vests/jackets/sweaters/coats that zip/button/snap from top to bottom may be any color and with hood.

In schools with multiple grade levels, the principal shall be given the opportunity to determine where the breaks would be allowed on these issues (Example: K-12 Maurepas – the principal would have the opportunity to decide where the break would be to determine elementary, middle/junior high, and high school to best adapt to that school's structure.)

Student Compliance With the Uniform Dress Code:

The *School Uniform Dress Code of Livingston Parish* shall strive to achieve full compliance through use of incentives and positive reinforcement measures, and will resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, the policy's rationale and benefits of the *School Uniform Dress Code* will be explained and fully understood by the student and his or her family.

The intent of this policy is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in uniform from receiving the education to which he or she is entitled. Also, the intent of this policy is not to suspend or expel a student from class or from school, or lower an academic grade as a result of not complying with the *School Uniform Dress Code*. However, non-compliance shall result in progressive disciplinary action being taken with the student.

No student shall be considered in violation of the *School Uniform Dress Code* in the following instances:

- A. When administrators allow exceptions to the uniform code for special events. (Ex. Dress-up day, athletes on game days, band, cheer, academic teams, clubs, picture day, band on regular meeting days, etc.)
- B. During the first ten (10) school days after transferring from out of the Parish to Livingston Parish Schools. During this ten (10) day period, appropriate

dress (according to School Board Policy) shall be followed.

C. When a student is on campus outside of normal school hours.

Progressive Disciplinary Action:

Students violating the *School Uniform Dress Code* shall be disciplined as follows:

1st – 3rd Offense: Notification sent home to parents via student or message to the parent via phone, email, OR automated call.

4th – 6th Offense: After School Detention / Extended Detention (ex. Saturday Clinic) and direct verbal parent/guardian notification per incident.

7th or more offenses: One (1) day out school suspension for each offense due to willful disobedience.

DRESS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All secondary students and other students where required by the local school, shall be required to dress out for physical education classes in a standard uniform. Exceptions can be made for religious reasons only, as hereinafter stated.

The standard uniform for physical education classes shall be as follows:

1. Plain tee shirt - school may require white, gray or school colors.
2. Gym shorts - school may require white, gray, black or school colors.
3. Gym shoes - any color.
4. Socks. Socks may not have inappropriate or offensive wording or images. Socks above the knee are prohibited.

Schools may sell uniforms to students as a service, but students shall not be required to buy uniforms from the school. Students shall not be required to purchase new uniforms each year if their present uniforms are in acceptable condition and fit properly.

Students transferring from one school to another shall be permitted to use their present gym suits or other suitable uniforms for a reasonable period of time, until an appropriate uniform can be purchased.

Students shall be required to put their names on their uniforms for identification.

Proper dress in physical education class shall be a factor in determining a student's grade.

A student shall be allowed to dress for physical education class in accordance with his/her

religious beliefs, provided that he or she has a written permission or excuse from his/her minister. Should physical education activities of the girls involve indecent exposure, the student shall be allowed to do alternative activities.

BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9, which includes permitting a student to wear, carry, or possess a backpack on school property or a school bus that has bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus, except as specifically set forth in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.2(C) and 14:95.6(B).

Body armor shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

Revised: June, 2001

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. '§14:95.9, 17:81, [17:111](#), [17:416](#), 17:416.7; Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt, 460 F.2d 609 (5th Cir.1972); Board minutes, 10-8-69, 10-29-70, 2-3-71, 8-24-72, 9-7-72, 9-21-72, 9-26-74, 9-77, 1-80, 5-89, 8-90, 2-3-00, 4-5-01, 4-17-03, 2-19-04, 4-1-21.