

PPEC Student Dress Code Policy

A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to a quality educational program. District-wide standards on student attire are intended to help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems, and improve school order and safety. The Board of Education recognizes that students have a right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance; however, students shall not wear apparel that is deemed disruptive or potentially disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school.

Any student deemed in violation of the dress code shall be required to change into appropriate clothing or make arrangements to have appropriate clothing brought to school immediately. In this case, there shall be no further penalty.

If the student cannot promptly obtain appropriate clothing on the first offense, the student shall be given a written warning and the opportunity to change into loaned clothing, if available, and the administrator shall notify the student's parent/guardian. On the second offense, a review of school expectations and rationale for dress and appearance will be accomplished, and a restorative conference with the parent/guardian shall be held. On the third offense, parents will be contacted, and the student may be subject to suspension or other disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions, and other disciplinary interventions. Classes missed as a result of clothing related offenses are considered excused, however, the student may be required to make up class time missed.

Unacceptable items

The following items are deemed disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school and are not acceptable in school buildings, on school grounds, or at school activities:

1. Shorts, dresses, skirts, or other similar clothing shorter than mid-thigh length
2. Sunglasses, hats, inside the building (Under district policy headgear which represents religious or cultural significance is permitted to be worn. Principals may exercise local control to allow hats or other headgear to be worn in their buildings.)
3. Inappropriately sheer, tight, or low-cut clothing (e.g., midriffs, halter tops, backless clothing, tube tops, garments made of fishnet, mesh, or similar material, muscle tops, etc.) that bare or expose traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the stomach, buttocks, back, chest, and breasts, or permits undergarments to be exposed
4. Tank tops or other similar clothing with straps narrower than 1.5 inches in width
5. Any clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, or body adornments that are or contain any advertisement, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that:
 - Refer to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons
 - Are of a sexual nature

- By virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attributes, denote membership in gangs that advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior
- Are obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous
- Threaten the safety or welfare of any person
- Promote any activity prohibited by the student code of conduct
- Create a safety hazard for the student or others
- Otherwise, disrupt the teaching-learning process

Exceptions

The district respects the rich variety of cultural influences expressed by its students. Administration may make temporary or enduring exceptions to this policy based on religious, cultural, or medical grounds.

Appropriate athletic clothing may be worn in physical education classes. Clothing normally worn when participating in school-sponsored extracurricular or sports activities (such as cheerleading uniforms and the like) may be worn to school when approved by the sponsor or coach.

Building principals, in conjunction with the school accountability committee, may develop and adopt school-specific dress codes that are consistent with this policy.