

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Kingwood Township Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress is the result of personal style and individual preferences. The Board will therefore not generally interfere with the rights of pupils and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when that choice negatively affects the educational programs, decorum or goals of the district.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are asked to cooperate in helping the school district attain its objectives and foster pride and good taste in appearance by exercising positive guidance and authority.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or his/her designee to enforce school regulations prohibiting pupil dress or grooming practices which:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. Prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The Superintendent or their designee shall develop regulations to implement this policy.

Regulation

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or his/her designee to enforce the following regulations, which have been deemed by the Board to be reasonable and appropriate.

- 1. Clothing with liquor advertisements, sexually suggestive messages, profanity, tobacco or gang affiliation slogans, vulgar or obscene symbols, offensive signs, slogans or pictures which degrade any race, societal group, color, creed, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status, sexual orientation or people with disabilities is not permitted. Drug related pictures and messages that support and/or condone drug use are also unacceptable.
- 2. Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that is considered "unsafe" (i.e., loose sandals, untied sneakers, etc.) is not permitted.



POLICY

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3. Hats and other head coverings are not permitted unless they are part of a pupil's religious belief or medical condition.
4. No jewelry is permitted that promotes violence, bigotry, profanity or use of restricted substances. Jewelry must not restrict movement, be distracting, or cause a safety hazard to one's self or others. As a safety precaution, pupils will not be allowed to participate in our physical education program and/or extra curricular sports programs while wearing jewelry that is deemed unsafe.
5. Each pupil must dress in a manner that does not unduly distract from the educational program. Clothing must not be tight, revealing, or suggestive. Midriff, tube tops, strapless tops/dresses, see-through articles, or articles that expose cleavage or stomach, may not be worn. Shorts must be in good taste (mid-thigh).

The regulations shall be enforced by the administration. Pupils who do not dress accordingly shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be informed of these regulations annually.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 26 May 2009

