

# POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

<b>Date Submitted:</b> November 21, 1995 <b>Date Reviewed:</b> August 20, 1996 April 20, 1999 July, 2002 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009 April 10, 2012	<b>Number:</b>  <b>600-12</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Student Dress Code	<b>Date Approved:</b> January 23, 1996 February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009 April 17, 2012 <b>Date Revised:</b> September 17, 1996 June 15, 1999 July 16, 2002 February 17, 2009 April 10, 2012 <b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 1999 August 20, 2002 February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009 April 17, 2012

## 1. PURPOSE

To establish and enforce a dress code for students in Somerset County Public School System (SCPS), which may include school uniforms. The student dress code is intended to outline acceptable standards for student dress during the school day and during other school-sponsored activities in order to create a safe and orderly learning environment.

## 2. GUIDELINES

**A. Elementary Dress Code** - Parents are encouraged to dress their children in a neat and appropriate manner that reflects pride in themselves and our school. Generally, children should wear clothes which are safe, do not disturb or distract other students, and are appropriate for weather conditions and for learning.

- (1) Clothing should be neat and clean.
- (2) Children should practice good personal hygiene on a daily basis.
- (3) Since the major purpose of school is to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning, any mode of dress which attracts an unusual amount of attention is unacceptable.
- (4) Articles of clothing, badges, or buttons that are suggestive in phrases or pictures or any other form of advertising anything illegal for youngsters is prohibited.
- (5) Students should wear shoes that fit securely and are appropriate for all physical education activities. Tennis shoes are ideal.

**B. Middle/High School Dress Code** - The SCPS System encourages all students to dress in a manner which promotes school discipline, safety, health, positive self-concept, a comfortable and pleasant learning environment, and a positive school image to the community-at-large. Student dress and grooming are the responsibility of students and their parents. Students are expected to show self-pride and pride in their school by

dressing in a clean and appropriate manner for school and school related activities. School personnel may counsel with those who affect extreme styles of dress or grooming. The school reserves the right to exclude items of apparel or accessories which may be harmful or detrimental to the health, safety, or physical well-being of students and/or disruptive to normal school activities.

The following standards will apply:

- (1) Hats and other head coverings, except for religious or medical purposes, are not worn inside the building. This also includes hair curlers and picks.
- (2) Pants or shorts are not to be worn hanging below the waist. Students' clothing should cover the area around their waists sufficiently to prevent exposure of their bare skin and/or undergarment. Shorts must have at least a 4-inch inseam.
- (3) For the purposes of health and safety, it is necessary that all students wear shoes which protect feet from objects and stumbling accidents. Thongs, and flip-flops are inappropriate and are not to be worn.
- (4) Articles of clothing advertising alcohol products, tobacco products, drugs or anything that is a violation of county policy or articles of clothing displaying obscene, abusive or sexually suggestive materials are not to be worn.
- (5) Revealing attire such as halter tops, backless tops, midriff tops and tank-style shirts are not to be worn. All shirts and blouses must not expose any bare skin at the waist line.
- (6) Students may wear skirts/dresses that are not over two inches above the knee including skirt/dresses with splits.
- (7) Principals may add additional requirements based on individual school needs and will notify parents in advance.
- (8) Coats and hats are to be placed in lockers upon arrival to school and remain there until dismissal. It is advised to keep a sweater/sweatshirt/warm-up jacket in your locker for cool days. Coats designed to be worn out-of-doors are not to be worn in school without special permission from an administrator. Students are encouraged to listen to daily weather forecasts and dress accordingly.

**C. Uniforms**

In establishing a dress code that adopts school uniforms, the rules and regulations shall ensure that any uniform required is available at an affordable price, and shall include provision to assist economically disadvantaged students in obtaining school uniforms.

**D. Compliance**

The principal or his/her designee, is responsible for ensuring that all students, staff, and parents are informed of the provisions of the student dress annually at the beginning of each school year and when ever appropriate.

Nothing in these regulations is intended to intrude on the constitutional, religious or statutory rights of any student as long as in the exercise of these rights, students do not create a threat to the good order of the school or cause the disruption of any recognized school function. The exercise of such rights by students must be consistent with the public purposes for which the public schools have been established.

**See Administrative Procedures**