

The Whitfield County Board of Education believes that an appropriate dress code will support a safe school environment that is conducive to learning. A committee of board members, administrators, teachers, parents, and students will review this student dress code each year. The Board of Education intends for this dress code to continually adapt to changing styles, reflecting the needs and opinions of our schools and our community.

**SECTION A: ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS FOR PROPER ATTIRE**

1. SHIRTS/BLOUSES (All colors and color combinations are acceptable.)
  - Styles – all styles which conform to rules concerning fit
  - Fabric – all except sheer, see-through, unlined lace, or anything similar
  - Fit
    - Sized appropriately, fitted modestly, (no cleavage showing), sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone
    - Buttoned properly
    - Long enough to cover midriff at all times (no skin showing at midriff)
2. SKIRTS/DRESSES/JUMPERS (all colors and color combinations)
  - Length – no shorter than knee length when standing
  - Fabric – all except sheer, see-through, unlined lace, or anything similar
  - Fit
    - Sized appropriately, fitted modestly, (no cleavage showing), sleeveless with material extending from collarbone to end of shoulder bone
    - Skirts properly fitted and secured at the waist
    - Jumpers must be worn with blouse meeting the dress code
    - No splits above the knee in skirts or dresses
3. PANTS/SLACKS/SHORTS
  - Styles – dress, chino, denim (jeans), cargo, sweatpants (no pajama pants, or similar styles)
  - Fabric – all except sheer, see-through, unlined lace, or anything similar
  - Leggings, yoga pants, any form-fitting pants must be worn with an appropriately sized covering that comes to mid-thigh while standing and made of a material that meets the dress code
  - Fit
    - Sized appropriately (no baggy or oversized pant legs)
    - Shorts at the knee when standing
    - Shorts may be dress, chino, denim (jeans), or cargo, gym, athletic, and basketball shorts are acceptable (must be at least knee length)
    - All styles fitted and secured at the waist
4. SHOES/BOOTS
  - Must be properly fastened (tied, buckled, laced)
  - No shoes with wheels
5. SWEATERS/JACKETS/OUTERWEAR
  - All dress code rules will apply to sweaters/jackets/outerwear when worn inside the school building
  - Hoodies must fit appropriately and not be oversized

**SECTION B: INAPPROPRIATE DRESS**

The following fads, styles, types of clothing, accessories, and appearances are deemed inappropriate:

- If clothing is worn with rips, holes, tears (above the knee), all holes must be permanently filled with fabric meeting dress code standards. Underwear cannot be visible under pants or shorts with holes above the knee.
- Baggy and oversized clothing
- Pajamas or similar styles
- Revealing, immodest
- Clothing or tattoos with writings, numbers, pictures, graphics, monograms, symbols or drawings, that promotes:
  - Gang/cult memberships or activity
  - Trademarks, slogans, or advertising advocating the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other unlawful activity
  - Discrimination based upon cultural, religious, racial or sexual orientations

- Clothing or jewelry deemed a safety risk or unlawful (see Discipline Code)
- Headwear (caps, scarves, bandanas, sunglasses, hoods, etc.) at any time inside the building
- Any objects in pierced body parts other than the ear and/or one side of the nose (One **small** stud in nose is allowed only). Stretchers, spikes or tunnels are not allowed. Any holes in ear lobes must be plugged for safety reasons.
- Writing on rear of pants or shorts

**The administrator's decision will stand as to the accepted judgment in the preceding examples of inappropriate dress.**

#### **SECTION C: ADHERENCE TO THE DRESS CODE**

- During the first five days of attendance within the school year, a student in violation will be asked to correct the infractions.
- Enforcement as to the progressive discipline procedures in the "Student Discipline Code" will begin on the sixth school day for any student.

**No student shall be considered to be out of compliance with this policy in the following instances:**

- When the student's parent/guardian has secured an exemption from the policy as set forth in the procedures outlined in the exemptions section below
- When the student wears a button, armband, or other accessory to exercise the right of freedom of expression, unless the button, armband, or other accessory is related to gangs, gang membership, or gang activity
- When the student wears a uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on regular meeting days
- When a student is wearing an approved form of dress for a school sponsored activity
- When the school administration waives the dress code policy for physical education classes or any class where the dress code is not conducive to the learning environment
- When the school administration waives the dress code policy for school spirit wear (clothing that is affiliated with school clubs, organizations, athletics)

#### **SECTION D: EXEMPTIONS**

In order to qualify for an exemption, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Request by mail, email ([chris.parker@wcsga.net](mailto:chris.parker@wcsga.net)) or in person from the school an "Application For Exemption Form".
2. Complete the application in full and submit it to the designated administrator at the student's school.
3. Meet with the designated school administrator to discuss the reasons and goals of the policy and the objection to the policy.
4. Receive formal approval/disapproval by the designated district administrator.