

Students

Dress and Grooming

The Marlborough Public Schools student dress code supports equitable educational access for all students. The Board of Education (Board) acknowledges students as individuals and students' dress should respect the District's intent and responsibility to ensure the health, safety and mental well-being of all students. The Board expects administrators to be focused on behaviors that undermine the educational process more so than on student dress.

The Board expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school-sponsored event. The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and his/her parents/guardians. Attire or grooming depicting or advocating violence, criminal activity, use of alcohol or drugs, pornography or hate speech is prohibited.

A student's attire or grooming should not be grounds for exclusion from his/her participation in school classes or in school-related activities. If, however, the attire or grooming of a student poses a threat to the health and safety of any other person, the appropriate solution as stated in the administrative regulation will be followed. Administrators shall use reasonableness and have discretion to determine the appropriateness of attire. Special exceptions may be made for students with a documented health condition or disability.

School staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

School-directed changes to a student's attire or grooming should be the least restrictive and disruptive to the student's school day. Any school dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of educational time. Enforcement of the dress code shall be gender neutral.

This policy applies to all individual schools. The Board prohibits schools from enacting more restrictive or less restrictive dress and grooming codes.

The Board of Education subscribes to the following values pertaining to the District's dress code:

1. All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
2. All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
3. Teachers should focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.

Students

Dress and Grooming (continued)

4. School staff should be trained and able to use student/body-positive language to explain the dress code and to address code violations.
5. Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance because of dress code enforcement.
6. Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline should be minimized whenever possible.

The Board believes the student dress code should accomplish the following goals:

1. Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
2. Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
3. Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
4. Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
5. Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech pornography or depicting or advocating violence or the use of alcohol or drugs.
6. Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, and personal style.

(cf. 5132.1 – Uniforms: Dress & Grooming)

(cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.511 – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program)

(cf. 5145.53 – Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

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MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Marlborough, Connecticut