

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the Charlotte County Public Schools primarily rests with parents and the students themselves. Some student apparel may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate in other settings.

The School Board of Charlotte County believes that there is a relationship between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude, and achievement. The objectives of this serious and conservative dress code are to bring more dignity to the classroom, to have fewer classroom distractions, to help achieve stronger discipline, and to help provide guidelines for appropriate attire as students transition from the classroom environment to the world of work or postsecondary settings.

To assist parents and students in making appropriate fashion and grooming decisions for school, the School Board has established the following guidelines for appearance and dress.

A school may elect to participate in a uniform dress code which follows school board guidelines and which receives school board approval. Once a uniform dress code is approved for a school, students must follow the school's adopted code or face consequences as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct "Matrix of Infractions and Consequences."

It is expected that students will wear the following:

1. Clothing and hairstyles which are not harmful, disruptive, or hazardous to health or safety;
2. Appropriate undergarments at all times. Undergarments are to remain unexposed;
3. Footwear which is appropriate to activities and conditions;
4. Tops and dresses which have sleeves;
5. Pants, skorts, shorts, skirts and dresses whose length is about the knee or longer when standing. Pants, skorts, shorts, and skirts are to be fastened at the waist. If the pants, skort, shorts, skirt, or dress has a leotard or leggings, etc. underneath, the pants, skort, shorts, skirt, or dress still must meet the appropriate length. Sheer leggings are not a substitute for pants; and
6. Pants with tears or rips above the knee can only be worn with clothing that covers exposed skin and undergarments.
7. In order to maintain a high level of student safety, high school students are required to wear school issued identification badges during regular school hours.

It is also expected that students will not wear the following:

1. Caps, hats, headwear or sunglasses except when students are out of doors during school hours;

Florida Statute 1001.43(1)(b)

2. Apparel, emblems, insignias, badges, or symbols that display obscenities, are sexually suggestive, or which promote or advertise the use of tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, violence or other illegal activities;

3 Apparel or symbols which are offensive to any specific group or which are identified with gang, secret society, or cult involvement;

4. Any articles of clothing or jewelry that could likely cause injury or disruption, such as but not limited to, inappropriate tattoos, a spiked bracelet that could be used as a weapon, decorative chains and/or piercings which are designed or worn in a fashion that could easily cause injury; and

5. Halters, backless or sleeveless dresses or tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, tank tops, muscle shirts, tops with low or revealing necklines, or any other clothing which may be distracting unless covered by an appropriate outer garment which remains as part of the outfit. In addition, the midriff shall not be exposed.

Note: The principal or the principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel conforms to the dress code. When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code, or is disruptive or inappropriate, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school, or a student may be sent home to change clothes.

Note: The principal may modify the dress code for extra-curricular school functions.

Effective July 1, 2011, Florida Statute prohibits a student, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment.

Any student who violates this statute is subject to the following specified disciplinary actions as prescribed by Florida law.

First offense: A student must be given a verbal warning and the school principal/designee

must call the student's parent or guardian.

Second offense: The student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 5 days and the school principal/designee must meet with the student's parent or guardian.

Third and subsequent offense: A student must receive an in-school suspension for a period not to exceed 3 days. The student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days. The school principal/designee must call the student's parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student's in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

Florida Statute 1001.43(1)(b);1006.07(2)(a,b,c)