

Students

Dress and Grooming

In order to maintain an environment conducive to the educational process, the Waterford Board of Education (the “Board”) prohibits the following attire, accessories, and other clothing items (together, “clothing items”) from wear during the academic school day:

- A. Head and face coverings, including but not limited to hats, hoods, and sunglasses, which obscure the face and ears and/or which interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff member. The following head and face coverings shall not be prohibited under this policy:
 - 1. Head and face coverings, including but not limited to hats and hoods, which *do not* obscure the face and ears and/or interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff member;
 - 2. Approved head coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief; and
 - 3. Coverings that are protective hairstyles; “protective hairstyle” includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps, and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros, and afro puffs.
- B. Clothing items that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students, or staff members; that may cause damage to school property; or that otherwise may interfere with the operation of the schools. Such items may include, without limitation, certain footwear; oversized metal belt buckle; metal belts or a combination of metal and leather belts configured in such a manner that could be used as a weapon; spiked bracelets; and oversized or multi-finger rings, belts, or other articles of attire with spikes attached.
- C. Clothing items that contain vulgarity, profanity, hate speech, or other overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures, which are likely to disrupt the educational environment.
- D. Clothing items depicting or suggesting violence so as to disrupt the educational environment; causing others to be intimidated by fear of violence and/or that constitute “fighting words,” including but not limited to clothing items depicting gang signifiers, the Confederate flag and/or the Nazi swastika.
- E. Clothing items depicting logos or emblems that encourage any illegal activity and/or the use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages.
- F. Shirts and/or blouses that display the abdomen, chest, or undergarments.
- G. See-through clothing, tank tops or sleeveless shirts.

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- H. Shorts, miniskirts, or pants that display the upper thigh or undergarments. Spandex garments are allowed only if they are covered by shorts, skirts or tunics.
- I. Strapless and backless attire.
- J. Bathing suits, except as required for a school-sponsored activity (e.g., physical education class, school sports).
- K. Backpacks and/or book bags are permitted to be carried between classes, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.

Students who fail to comply with Board policy and regulations concerning student dress will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion in accordance with the Board's policy on student discipline #5180.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51 (definitions of protective hairstyles)

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WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Waterford, Connecticut