

WHS Dress Code

Revised Spring 2022

Dress Code Philosophy

All students should have the right to dress comfortably and express themselves in school through selection of clothing, hair styles, jewelry, and accessories that represent and affirm their identities. Student dress codes should support equitable educational access and should not reinforce gender or cultural stereotypes or reinforce marginalization or oppression of any group. All students and staff should also understand that they are responsible for recognizing and managing their own personal "distractions" without unnecessarily regulating individual students' clothing choices as long as clothing adheres to Board of Education Policy 5190 (Student Dress and Grooming).

Dress Code Goals

- Maintain a safe learning environment that is responsive to the specific needs of different classroom environments (e.g. protective clothing in lab settings, athletic attire in PE classes, etc)
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, body type/size, personal style, household income, or disability.
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that may make it difficult to identify them, interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, interfere with the rights or personal space of others, or contribute to a hostile or unwelcoming atmosphere.

Dress Code Expectations (“Must/May/May Not Wear”)

Students Must Wear:

- Shirt/top: with fabric on the front, back, and on the sides under the arms
- Bottom: pants, sweatpants, shorts, skirt, dress, and/or leggings that cover the upper thigh and undergarments.
- Shoes
- Some courses may require specialized attire (such as uniforms, safety equipment for lab classes, and required attire and sneakers for PE classes).

Students May Wear:

- Hats and hoodie sweatshirts, as long as they allow the face to be clearly visible and not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff. Hats and hoodies must allow the student's face and ears to be visible.
- Pajama bottoms
- Ripped pants, as long as underwear is not exposed
- Athletic attire

Students May Not Wear: Limitations to student dress and attire are based on the Waterford Board of Education Policy 5190 requirements.

- Violent language/images or gang signifiers
- Images or language depicting any illegal activity, including the use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol
- Hate speech, profanity, or pornography
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment for others.
- Visible underwear (visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation)
- Shirts/blouses that display the abdomen, chest, or undergarments.
- See-through clothing, tank tops, or sleeveless shirts.
- Bathing suits, except as required for PE classes and sports
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance or as required PPE)

Dress Code Enforcement

The primary responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests with the student and their parents/guardians, and all students are expected to understand and adhere to the WHS student dress code. At school, dress code expectations will be enforced consistently and fairly by school staff regardless of the student's gender, race, or other identifying characteristics.

Enforcement guidelines:

- Enforcement of the dress code should not lead to removal from class or loss of class time unless the issue creates a safety concern or violates the dress code non-violence/non-discrimination expectations.
- School staff should address dress code concerns in as private a manner and setting as possible.
- No student should be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement because of gender, race, body size, or body maturity.
- Students should not be publicly shamed or forced to display their body in front of others (students, parents, staff) in the course of dress code enforcement.
- Students violating the dress code will have three options to address the situation:
 - Put on their own alternative clothing, if they have it available at school
 - Borrow alternative clothing from a peer or the school for the day
 - Have a parent bring alternative clothing for the student to wear