

MERIDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

SECTION I: STUDENTS

IC2.1

C. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2. Standards of Conduct

.1 Dress Code

The Meriden Board of Education takes pride in the appearance of our students. Students are expected to wear attire that is not disruptive to the education process and is not dangerous or unsafe. Students should always come to school neat and clean. The dress of a student reflects the level of respect for oneself, respect for one's peers and respect for one's school.

The Meriden Board of Education, school administrators, and teachers will enforce the following guidelines as the Student Dress Code in the Meriden Public School System:

- a. **Headgear** – All headgear, which includes, but is not limited to, caps, hoods, bandanas, bandana headbands, wave caps, doo-rags, sweatbands, and headbands, are prohibited, must be kept out of sight in the building and must be placed in the student's locker or classroom closet immediately upon entering the school and should remain there for the entire school day. Exceptions for religious or medical reasons are to be granted by the principal.
- b. **Blouses/Shirts** – Blouses/shirts should be constructed so that the tops of the shoulders are covered (no halter tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps or bare shoulders of any type will be allowed). Blouses/shirts that allow exposure of any portion of the waist, hips, midriff or inappropriate exposure of the chest or breasts are not allowed. Rips or holes that expose skin and see-through shirts are not acceptable.
- c. **Skirts/Shorts/Dresses/Pants** – Shirts, shorts and dresses should have hemlines that are not more than four (4) inches above the top of the knee cap. Pants should be of length so as not to be a danger to yourself or others walking near you. Pants should be worn close to the waist and belted or should fit well enough to stay at the waist, preventing exposure of undergarments. Rips or holes that expose skin and/or undergarments are not acceptable.
- d. **Outdoor Garments** – All outdoor garments, which include, but are not limited to hats, coats, gloves and scarves, must be placed in the student's locker or classroom closet immediately upon entering the school and should remain there for the entire school day.
- e. **Shoes** – Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear must be fastened to the foot over the top of the foot as well as the heel or around the ankle. Footwear with excessive heels is not allowed. Footwear, such as but not limited to, flip flops, clogs, and slip-on sport sandals will not be permitted. Exceptions to the shoe policy may be made according to Physical Education curriculum requirements as allowed by the administration.
- f. **Lounging Attire** – Pajamas, slippers and all other lounging attire is not allowed.
- g. **Prints** – No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict profanity, violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, hate groups, gang affiliation or illegal activity, expressed or implied.
- h. **Accessories** – Students may not wear or possess articles of clothing or clothing accessories that could cause injury to others or are disruptive to the education process. This includes, but is not limited to, sunglasses, chains, cleats, spikes or studs.
- i. Students are not allowed to display clothing or symbols that have been identified by agencies, such as, but not limited to, the Meriden Police Department, as being commonly associated with gangs. Garments, jewelry, body art and tattoos that communicate gang allegiance or affiliation are not allowed to be worn or visible at school.

Exceptions to the above dress code will be considered for medical reasons, special events, cultural beliefs or to promote school spirit as determined by the school principal or his/her designee. Students and/or sponsors wishing to request special exceptions must have permission from the school administration prior to the activity.

Cross Reference: Policy IC2 (Standards of Conduct)

Approved: April 28, 1981

Amended: December 14, 2004

Amended: September 6, 2005