

STUDENT DRESS CODE

(Policy #7312)

The Schenectady City School District is committed to providing a safe, secure, orderly and appropriate environment for learning. This includes the responsibility of ensuring a student's dress, grooming, and overall appearance is safe and does not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. A student's style of dress may reflect individual choice but must be within the constraints of reasonable rules and appropriate standards consistent with an environment that promotes a positive learning atmosphere free of disruptions and distractions. Students and their parents are responsible for adhering to the district dress code.



To equitably enforce the district dress code students must follow these guidelines and expectations:

- a) All students and parents must be notified of the policy at the beginning of each school year.
- b) Clothing, attire or grooming may not depict or advocate violence, criminal activity, use of alcohol or drugs, pornography, or hate speech.

Specifically, the following is prohibited:

- 1) Clothing that depicts, advertises or advocates the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
 - 2) Clothing that depicts pornography, nudity or sexual acts.
 - 3) Clothing that depicts hate speech or symbols targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation or any other protected classification.
- c) Attire (including jewelry) must not pose a threat to the health or safety of any other student or staff.
- d) Students must wear a top with fabric on the front and sides, including opaque (non- see through) fabric over breasts; a bottom that covers the genitals, buttocks and all portions of underwear except the waist band.
- e) Clothing that masks a student's identity is prohibited.
- f) Appropriate footwear must be worn always; specifically, footwear that allows students to walk comfortably throughout the building and move quickly in the event of an emergency.

To equitably enforce the district dress code, all students, school staff, teachers and administrators are expected to follow these guidelines:

- a) All school staff, students, administrators and parents must be notified of the dress code policy at the beginning of each school year.
- b) If a student's clothing is in violation of the dress code, they will be required to modify their appearance to gain compliance with the policy.
- c) When staff or administrators address a grooming or dress violation, they should present options for obtaining appropriate clothing (e.g. school clothing closet). Where possible, students should not be required to wear school-owned replacement garments as a disciplinary measure.
- d) Chronic dress or grooming violations will be subject to further disciplinary actions.
- e) SCSD reserves the right to revisit and make modifications to the dress code if necessary.
- f) Enforcement must accommodate clothing worn by students as an expression of religious beliefs (head scarves, for example) and worn by students with disabilities (protective helmets, for example).