

# Regulation

No. 5170

BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
HOWELL TOWNSHIP

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## DRESS CODE

The following dress code has been developed in accordance with Policy No. 517 and in consultation with

**(Choose only one of the following alternatives:)**

\_\_\_ staff members, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and pupils of this district.

\_\_\_ members of the following organizations:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ (list staff committees, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and/or pupil organizations, and advisory committees, as appropriate).

### A. General Rules

1. Pupils are expected to be clean and well groomed in their appearance.
2. Pupils are expected to avoid dress and grooming that is likely to create a material and substantial disruption to the school environment.
3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health or safety of the pupil or of other pupils or is injurious to school property will not be tolerated.

### B. Prohibited Clothing and Articles

The following garments and articles are prohibited in school and at school-sponsored indoor events:

**(Select applicable items from the following list:)**

1. Extremely low-cut, tight fitting or transparent clothes, bare midriffs, and suggestive clothing;
2. Skirts, dresses, and pants that end higher than mid-thigh;
3. Outdoor jackets, coats, or hats except when entering or leaving the building and when there is a defect in the heating system;
4. Bare feet, unsafe footwear, cleated shoes, and footwear intended for the beach;
5. Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene;

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6. Undershirts (underwear) worn without an outer shirt;
7. In the classroom, clothing required for physical education classes;
8. Clothing that is overly soiled, torn, worn, or defaced;
9. Nonprescription sunglasses, glazed, and tinted glasses, except as prescribed by the pupil's doctor;
10. Portable audio or video devices;
11. Beepers and other summoning devices, except as permitted in Policy No. 2360;
12. Clothing, apparel and/or accessories which indicate affiliation with any gang associated with criminal activity or have references to alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or tobacco;
13. Clothing containing profanity or sexual references or innuendoes;
14. Clothing which includes racial or ethnic violence;
15. Hats, hoods, visors, headbands and other headgear; and
16. Any clothing that is likely to create a material and substantial disruption to the school environment.

**[Optional**

C. School Uniform Provision of Dress Code Policy

1. The Board of Education believes school dress can influence pupil behavior and a school uniform policy will enhance a school's learning environment. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8, the Board adopts a school uniform provision of this Dress Code Policy to require pupils at the following school(s) to wear a school uniform:

School	Board Public Hearing Date
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_____	_____
_____	_____

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2. A school uniform policy has been requested by the school Principal, staff, and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of pupils in each school listed above.
3. The Board held a public hearing prior to the adoption and implementation of this Policy for each school listed above.
4. This Policy shall not be implemented in an individual school for at least three months after Board approval and after providing notice to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the pupils in the school.
5. The school uniform to be worn in each school listed above shall be selected by the Principal and a representative committee of staff and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the pupils attending the school. The school uniform to be worn shall be presented to the Board by the Principal for Board approval.
6. Footwear [ is /  is not] included as part of the school uniform.
7. A description of the required school uniform for each school listed above shall be maintained in the Principal's office at each school.
8. The school uniform to be worn to school shall be purchased by the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) directly from the vendors who have been determined to provide the approved uniform clothing.
9. The Board believes the cost of school uniforms will result in less expense for each pupil than not wearing school uniforms. However, each school, working with the school's parent organization, will develop fundraising opportunities, community donation programs, and corporate sponsorships to defray the cost of the school uniforms for economically disadvantaged pupils.
10. This School Uniform Policy does not prohibit pupils who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.) that are approved and/or recognized by the Board, from wearing organization uniforms to school on days the organization has a scheduled meeting or for a scheduled and specific purpose for wearing such organization uniform approved in advance by the Principal.

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11. A parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may request an exemption for their child wearing the school uniform by completing the Application for School Uniform Policy Exemption stating a bona fide religious or philosophical objection to wearing the school uniform.
  - a. The Application requires the applicant to indicate the objection with specificity and to provide the alternative dress the pupil will wear to school to be in compliance with the bona fide objection.
  - b. The Principal will designate a committee of school staff members to consider all exemption requests and the committee will grant exemptions upon a finding that the objection is based in a deeply held religious or philosophical belief.

12. A pupil who does not wear a school uniform to school without permission and/or an exemption, shall be subject to the following:

Incident

1 <sup>st</sup>	_____
2 <sup>nd</sup>	_____
3 <sup>rd</sup>	_____
4 <sup>th</sup>	_____
5 <sup>th</sup> or more	_____

13. A pupil shall not be determined non-compliant with this Policy in the event the pupil is determined by the Principal or designee, to be exercising his/her First Amendment rights, and has permission to be excused from the school uniform requirement from the Principal, or designee, or is granted an exemption pursuant to Policy 5111.
14. A pupil will not be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against nor denied admittance to school if the pupil is granted permission to be excused from the school uniform requirement by the Principal, or designee, or is granted an exemption.
15. In the event a Principal, the school's staff, and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of pupils in a school that is not listed above in this Policy desire to have this Policy

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implemented in their school building, the Principal must request approval from the Superintendent to implement the public hearing requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8. The Superintendent will coordinate the scheduling of a public hearing with the Board President.

16. The Board of Education will evaluate the effectiveness of this Policy on an annual basis before the end of each school year. The Principal of each building with a school uniform provision will compile a report to the Superintendent to be presented to the Board. The report shall indicate the influence school uniforms had on the school's learning environment. This report shall be presented to the Board by June 30. The Board will consider the report for each school and may revise this Policy, if applicable.
17. The Building Principal of all schools listed above will distribute a copy of this Policy:
  - a. To all parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of all pupils in the school;
  - b. To parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of all pupils entering the school from another school in the district; and/or
  - c. To parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of all pupils entering the school during the school year from another school district.]

C. Physical Education

**[Option – Select one option**

\_\_\_\_1. Pupils shall wear the designated gym suit, which is available for purchase through the school.

**OR**

\_\_\_\_1. Pupils shall wear the following types of clothing for physical education classes:

- a. Athletic style shorts and/or sweatpants.
  - b. A shirt for indoor activities and a sweatshirt or appropriate outerwear for outdoor activities in cool weather.]
2. Snug belts, cut-offs, jeans, loose jewelry, and dirty or torn clothing and accessories are prohibited.

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3. Pupils must wear sneakers or rubber-soled athletic shoes; slip-on shoes, hard-soled shoes, and bare feet are prohibited in gym class.
4. Pupils [\_\_ are required/\_\_ are not required/ \_\_\_ may be required by the teacher] to shower after a gym class.

D. Enforcement

1. Teaching staff members will report perceived violations of the dress code to the Building Principal or designee, who will interpret and apply the code.
2. Pupils who publicly represent the school or a school organization at an activity away from the school district are required to dress in full accordance with the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge of the activity. Pupils unwilling to comply with this requirement will disqualify themselves from participation.
3. Pupils will not be permitted to attend a school-related function, such as a field trip, after-school activity unless they are attired and groomed in accordance with this dress code and the reasonable expectations of the staff member in charge.
4. The Principal may waive application of the dress code for special school activity days
5. A pupil whose dress or grooming has been found by the Principal or designee to violate this Regulation may appeal the determination to the Superintendent.

Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Revised: \_\_\_\_\_