

# Student Dress Code

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## Student Dress

The Columbus City Schools is committed to establishing a positive learning environment in class, on campus and at school events. The Board of Education believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The dress code represents that commitment and applies to all students. Students are responsible for following the dress code. Parents are responsible for ensuring students are dressed appropriately for school. Staffs are responsible for enforcement. The dress code is enforced at school and school functions not open to the public.

These guidelines are intended to prevent disruption of the classroom atmosphere, enhance classroom decorum, eliminate disturbances and minimize distractions of other students so as not to interfere with the educational process. These guidelines are also intended to help protect the health and welfare of the individual student. School building principals shall have the authority to further define dress code requirements for their individual school buildings in order to maintain the principles of this policy and consistent with the unique circumstances of their individual schools or grade levels.

Under the current administration, Highland has no uniform policy. Rather, Highland follows the Columbus City Schools dress code guidelines:

All students shall abide by the following:

- 1) All clothing shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school. Clothing shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times.
    - a) Dress and skirt length shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste and not shorter than mid-thigh.
    - b) No bare midriffs. As a test for appropriate length, student bodies shall not be exposed when arms are raised above their heads. Tops may not be low cut, off the shoulder or otherwise revealing. Tube tops, spaghetti strap tops, halter tops and/or any strapless top or dress which reveals the midriff or breasts are neither acceptable nor permitted. No undershirts shall be worn as outer wear. Clothing may not be “see
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through.” Shirts must be worn at all times and must be sized appropriately so that they do not interfere with normal school activities. Shirts that are sleeveless must cover the shoulders.

- c) Shorts and skirts may not be shorter than mid-thigh.
- d) Shorts, pants, and skirts shall have no writing across the seat area.
- e) Clothes may not be tight or form fitting.
- f) No sleepwear.

2) Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip-flops, slippers/bedroom shoes and beach shoes are not permitted. Toes must be covered and the shoes cannot restrict students from running or walking safely.

3) Commercial lettering or printing will be allowed on shirts and sweatshirts as long as it is acceptable for school attire. Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive or which advocate negative racial, ethnic, gender or religious prejudice, or use or glorification of drugs, tobacco, alcohol or violence.

4) Hats, caps and other types of head covering (other than for religious purposes) shall not be worn inside buildings.

5) Sunglasses are approved for wear outside, but not for inside the school building.

6) Students may wear Bermuda shorts, walking shorts or other shorts within the following guidelines:

- a) Shorts must be hemmed and straight legged.
- b) The length of shorts must be within the bounds of decency and in good taste as appropriate for school. Shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh and must be worn at the waist. Saggy shorts are not allowed
- c) Short shorts or gym shorts are not to be worn other than for physical education courses.

7) Long pants are allowed for both boys and girls. The fullness of pants must not interfere with normal school activities and must be neat and clean at all times. Students wearing overalls or other bib-type attire must have the straps buttoned appropriately and wear an acceptable shirt or blouse underneath. All long pants must be proper waist size, length and leg size (no sagging).

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- a) Pants waist must not be more than one inch bigger than the correctly measured student waist size. Pants cannot be gathered or drawn together at the waist and must not hang below the waist.
  - b) Pant inseams must be appropriately sized for the student. Pant length should not touch or drag on the ground.
  - c) Belts must not be more than three (3) inches longer than the student's measured waist size

### **Gang Symbols and Gang-Related Apparel**

The Board of Education desires to keep district schools and students free from the threats or harmful influences of any groups or gangs which advocate drug use or disruptive behavior. For the purpose of these guidelines, "gang related apparel" is defined as apparel that, if worn or displayed on campus could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment. In addition to the provisions of this policy, building principals in consultation with staff and others as appropriate may additionally establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing gang-related apparel when there is evidence of a gang's presence that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school's activities. Principals may prohibit the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute denotes membership in such a group. (i.e., wearing or possession of chains, rags, bandannas, stocking caps, long belts, baggy/oversized pants, cutoff or saggy pants, pants worn very low below the waist, fronts, etc.)

Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang membership shall be referred to the building principal or assistant principal.

In cases of questionable dress (not explicitly covered in these guidelines) the student will be counseled by a teacher, counselor, or administrator and appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action taken, including, when necessary, a home contact seeking parental cooperation and assistance. Student may also be sent home to change into appropriate clothing or be issued a school tee shirt, if necessary. Repeat infractions will result in appropriate discipline. Exceptions to these guidelines may be made by principals for recess, proms, physical education and certain other events.