

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #33

Student Dress

The Board recognizes that responsibility for the dress and appearance of students rests with individual students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). The Board will not interfere with this right unless the personal choices of students create a disruptive influence on the school program or affect the health or safety of others.

Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. Dressing for success in the school routine reinforces for the learners the importance of dressing appropriately for the world of work and their future professional endeavors.

It is an expectation that learners will use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. In keeping with the goals of the school unit to provide a safe, healthy and non-discriminatory environment for educating learners for maximum academic and social development, the following restrictions on dress shall be enforced.

- Articles of clothing that promote the use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs may not be worn on school grounds or at school functions.
- Clothing, footwear, insignia, or accessories that are intended to identify the wearer as a member of a particular gang are prohibited.
- Articles of clothing with displays that are sexual, vulgar, lewd or indecent, or include insulting words (e.g., racial/ethnic slurs) are impermissible.
- Clothing that is destructive of school property (e.g., cleats, pants with metal inserts that scratch furniture) is not permitted.
- Hats and hoods are NOT to be worn at assemblies and special school events.

Additionally, dress must reflect the standards of both the individual and school building safety. All dress must contribute to an environment consistent with a positive and healthy school climate:

- Clothing needs to cover the learner's torso and all undergarments.
- Inappropriately sheer, low-cut clothing that bares or exposes the stomach, back, breasts, or buttocks. Examples of such clothing include, but are not limited to: strapless tops, one-shoulder strap tops, low-cut tops, spaghetti straps, halters, midriff tops, and muscle shirts.
- Shorts and skirts/dresses must reach the learner's fingertips with their hands held down by their sides. Length should extend beyond the pockets. All holes need to be covered or patched in areas above the "fingertip rule."
- Learner apparel will not carry messages that have profanity, are overtly or subtly obscene, could be perceived as racially, sexually, or culturally prejudicial, or advertise illegal substances such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

- Footwear must be appropriate for school. **Sneakers only on gym floor.**
- School faculty, staff, and administrators are authorized to determine appropriateness of student attire.
- Learners dressed inappropriately will be expected to change/cover their attire before continuing in their studies for the day.
- Parents of learners requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or medical purposes should contact the building principal.
- Any individual refusing to adhere to dress and behavior guidelines will be referred to the building principal for review and possible consequences.
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School administrators or teachers may require special clothing for health and safety reasons for students participating in physical education, certain extracurricular activities, work with or around machines or other activities. However, no particular brand may be required.

Students with long head hair or facial hair of any length, working in a location, which presents hair-catching or fire hazard, shall wear suitable covering, which completely covers the hair (e.g., hair net, cap, hard hat) in order to prevent entanglement in machinery or the possibility of catching fire.

Beards and head hair shall be contained and/or covered when the individual is taking part in the following activities:

- Cutting and welding operations
- Operating any type of power machinery
- Wearing any type of respirator when any hair prevents a perfect seal

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of any administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

History:	Adopted	Meeting #645	November 1, 1993 (as policy JHF)
	Revised	Meeting #987	May 1, 2017
	Revised	Meeting #1014	November 5, 2018