



# DRESS CODE POLICY & GUIDELINES

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Excerpt from the Student Code of Conduct Manual

A standardized dress code of Pelham City Schools has been adopted to assure that all students are provided safe and appropriate educational opportunities which are free from unnecessary disruptions or outside influences and to instill in students the need to dress appropriately and have respect for each other and authority. For young people, especially teenagers who are beginning to find their true identities in the middle of peer-pressure and parent prodding, dress is an important issue. For the younger children, lifetime habits of taste and dress are greatly affected by their childhood dressing patterns. The dress code will be strictly enforced in middle through high school. Elementary schools may use discretion in the enforcement of the dress code policy.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following explanation behind the choice of the standards.

The way a person dresses reflects the way he/she thinks. We want to prepare students for the world of work, and we believe a neat, professional appearance is a good habit to develop in the childhood years.

Just as students would dress one way for a picnic or ball game, there is an appropriate way to dress for school.

A well-groomed student should come to school with an attitude that prepares him or her for neat, conscientious work. His or her attire should give him or her respect for self, fellow students, and teachers.

Students who have questionable or inappropriate dress will not be allowed to attend class. The following items will serve as a minimum guide to acceptable dress for Pelham City School students.

Any school modifying the Pelham Board of Education Dress Code must obtain the Superintendent's approval. All modifications must be presented in writing to students prior to enforcement.

Continued, next page

## **Dress Code Guidelines:**

- A. All students must wear tops with a non-revealing neckline. Low cut, open back, bare midriff, off the shoulders, spaghetti straps, bare sides, see through, or any other clothing deemed provocative will be prohibited. Female students may wear sleeveless garments which adequately cover undergarments.
- B. No obscene language and/or illegal substance advertisements (to include alcoholic and tobacco advertisements) may be worn on clothing or accessories.
- C. No hats, caps, hoods, head coverings, hair curlers, headbands, bandanas, picks, or sunglasses will be worn in school.
- D. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be fingertip length or longer. Garments worn over leggings must follow the fingertip rule on all sides of the body.
- E. Articles of clothing worn too low, too long, too large, too tight, or too loose are not permitted. Pajama style pants, snap-aways, and sweatpants are prohibited. Athletic-type pants may be worn only during physical education classes or as approved by administration (including, but not limited to, wind suit pants and soccer shorts).
- F. Nighttime attire is not acceptable in the school setting. This may include pajama pants, blankets, robes, and house shoes.
- G. Students are required to wear appropriate shoes at all times.
- H. Students' clothing should be neat and clean and should not be in noticeable disrepair. Unhemmed (cut-off) shorts, skirts, shirts, pants, and garments with inappropriate holes or inappropriate slits are not allowed.
- I. Students are prohibited from wearing body jewelry, hairstyles, tattoos, and other adornments that draw attention to oneself in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process.
- J. Appropriate undergarments must be worn and not visible.
- K. Students are prohibited from wearing any metal chains, metal spiked apparel, oversized belt buckles, or accessories.
- L. Students are to wear clothing in the manner it is designed to be worn, i.e., clothing worn backward or inside out is not allowed. No excessively tight or revealing clothing, such as fishnet or see-through garments, may be worn.
- M. Students are prohibited from wearing any sign, symbol, logo, or garment, which has become synonymous with any gang, cult, or unauthorized club or organizational activity. This also includes any avenue for the promotion of products or activities prohibited by school policy or that is inflammatory and may generate negative feelings among the student body.
- N. Backpacks must be kept in lockers during school hours.

Any item which disrupts the instructional program is not allowed to be displayed at school. The above items serve as a minimum guide. The principal shall have the discretion to outline other appropriate guidelines for their campus or for special occasions.