

SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENT DRESS CODE

A safe and positive learning environment is essential to a quality educational experience. Students have the right, as well as the responsibility, to make good choices when it comes to clothing and personal appearance. Gaining experience in how to present oneself in the best manner possible is a valuable skill students will use throughout life.

The purpose of the student dress code is to draw some clear boundaries around what is acceptable and what is not. The standards which follow apply to the regular school day, school activities, and whenever a student is on school grounds or representing the school. Every student is encouraged to dress above these minimum basic standards of safety and appropriateness:

1. Outerwear (coats, hats, gloves, sunglasses, etc.) must be removed once inside the school.
2. Shorts, dresses, skirts, skorts or other similar clothing should be at least finger-tip length when standing.
3. Clothing should fully cover, when standing or seated, the stomach, buttocks, back, shoulders, and chest. **Boys' shirts must be tucked in.** Clothing that is sheer, tight, low-cut, or sleeveless shall not be worn.
4. Clothing must fit appropriately, meaning nothing too tight or too baggy.
5. Pants are to be appropriately sized. **A belt is required for pants with belt loops.** Pants are to be belted at the waist. Pajama pants are not allowed. Pants with holes in them are not allowed. (A hole is defined as any fraying of the material. Holes must be patched on the outside of the pants.)
6. Shoes are to be worn at all times. Sandals and flip-flops are permitted as long as they fit securely enough to provide safe movement.
7. Clothing, accessories, jewelry, hair coloring and body art should not be offensive or distracting. Examples of offensive or distracting items include:
 - References to sex, illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons
 - Gang-related
 - Obscene, rude, or libelous
 - Threatening
 - Disrespectful of the Guidelines for Good School Order or school image

Building administrators are the final authority when it comes to what is appropriate for student clothing and personal appearance. Violations of the Student Dress Code as interpreted by a school building administrator can lead to disciplinary consequences consistent with the progressive discipline policies adopted by the Elkhart Community Schools. Building administrators shall also have the authority to waive provisions of this dress code for special events (e.g. Prom, Banquets, Homecoming, etc.).

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