

REGULATION -

PALMYRA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Effective July 1, 2015

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DRESS AND GROOMING

R 5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

Standards for Success

The Palmyra School District believes that the dress, grooming, and personal hygiene of students are important factors to a student's academic success, well-being, and positive behavior. Student dress, grooming, and personal hygiene shall reflect appropriateness, cleanliness, and safety within the classroom and school activities. Student dress should not be extreme and it must not be in any significant way distracting to the educational activities of the school. The Palmyra School District recognizes that this regulation of student Dress and Grooming is essentially a parental responsibility. We believe our students should dress for success.

Personal Responsibility – Dress Code

1. Students shall dress in a way as to not present a health risk to themselves or others.
2. Students attending any school function (field trips, dances, activities, athletic events, during and after school hours, etc.) shall wear proper attire as defined in this regulation. Any student who is not properly attired will not be permitted to participate in the event.
3. Students shall not wear clothing, accessories, or display tattoos and body expressions that:
 - a. Is sexually suggestive or contains obscenities and vulgarities in writing or pictures;
 - b. May be discriminatory to race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, etc.;
 - c. Suggests the use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs;
 - d. Suggests gang behavior, terroristic threats/activity, assault or personal violence, or criminal behavior;
 - e. Displays weapons (firearms, knives, incendiary devices, etc.);
 - f. Has a double meaning, wording, or obscene language/gestures;
 - g. Is disrespectful in nature that it disrupts learning;
 - h. Is tattered, frayed, ripped, cut-off, has holes.
4. At no time are underwear and/or support under garments of any kind to be exposed. This includes boxer shorts, briefs, and bra straps.
5. Students shall respect the rights and privacy of others. At no time shall a student engage in unacceptable behavior that harasses, intimidates, or bullies another student based on the rights of self-expression supported in this regulation.

Personal Standards – Dress Code

Shirts/Tops

1. Must cover shoulders;

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2. No low-cut, revealing, excessively tight, or see-through attire;
3. No bare midriff, bare shoulder or backless attire, such as halter, spaghetti strap, tank or tube tops;
4. No muscle shirts or camouflage;
5. No sleepwear.

Pants/Slacks/Shorts/Skirts

1. The shortest point of clothing shall be approximately two (2) inches above the knee.
2. Cannot be work lower than the hip resulting in exposure of undergarments or inappropriate expose of the body.
3. No excessively short skirts, skorts, or shorts. All attire must be no shorter than approximately two (2) inches above the knee.
4. Yoga, stretch pants, leggings and tights can only be worn underneath garments that are no shorter than approximately two (2) inches above the knee.
5. No sleepwear.
6. No camouflage.

Hats, Head Covering

1. Students are not permitted to have a hat (head covering, visor, skull cap, wave cap, hood, bandana, headband, or scarf) on their head while in a school building.
2. Headband or scarf may only be worn to keep hair out of the eyes; must serve this specific purpose.

Shoes, Footwear

1. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
2. Student footwear must promote personal safety, particularly walking up and down stairs, and for Physical Education classes.
3. Footwear with laces must be tied or secured so that a tripping hazard is not present.
4. Unacceptable: Soft sole shoes (not rubber or hard), flip-flops, shower shoes, slippers, athletic slides, sandals without a back strap, and all sandals and shoes with heels over two (2) inches.

Jackets, Coats, Outer Garments

1. Jackets and coats may not be worn in the building (except during arrival/dismissal times).
2. Hats, gloves, winter weather accessories may not be worn in the building (except when immediately entering/exiting the building).

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Accessories

1. Eyewear that prevents eye-to-eye contact (sunglasses, glazed and tinted glasses) is not allowed.
2. No jewelry, chains, or other accessories that may present a danger to one's self, or to the health and safety of others are permitted (i.e. chains, spikes, studs, etc.).
3. Book bags may not be left unattended in the hallways and cafeteria.

Grooming and Personal Hygiene

1. Students shall present a regard for hygienic care to body and clothes.
2. Personal fragrances shall be limited so as not to cause health reactions or disruption to others.
3. Hair may be worn as desired providing it does not create any problems to one's self or other's health, safety, or cause classroom disturbances.

Waivers and Exceptions – Dress Code

1. Written requests for waivers to the dress code must be presented to, and approved by the building principal PRIOR to an action occurring by the student.
2. Waivers to the dress code for religious or medical purposes must be valid and substantiated with written documentation from the religious organization or medical provider. This information must be provided to the building principal for approval.
3. A classroom teacher may grant temporary exception to the dress code for special/emergent situations provided authorization is received from the building principal (facilities, student activities, etc.).

Violations and Accountability – Dress Code

1. Students, parents and staff are expected to adhere to the intent of the dress code as well as the specific wording of the dress code.
2. If a student or parent is unsure if a specific article of clothing or accessory is allowable, clarification from the building principal shall be obtained PRIOR to wearing the article of clothing or accessory.
3. Parents/guardians will be contacted at home or work if the student is unable to self-correct his/her dress code violation.
4. Should a student violate the dress code, appropriate consequences will be applied as per the Student Discipline – Code of Conduct.

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School Administration – Dress Code

1. The Administration has the right to alter this code in order to guarantee that an orderly classroom academic environment exists.
2. Other rules relative to the dress code may be established by the Administration on an “ad hoc” basis for certain classes or certain operations in some classes when necessary for safety reasons.
3. The Administration is authorized to modify the dress code to sponsor school spirit day activities related to special dress.
4. Final determination of what is acceptable and not acceptable, as it pertains to the dress code, will be made by the Administration.
5. The Administration has the right to send the student home (with parent confirmation) if a student is unable to self-correct for a dress code violation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1, 18A:11-7, 18A:11-8, 18A:11-9

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