

5511 DRESS AND APPEARANCE

The Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress and appearance is a manifestation of the pupil's personal style and individual preferences. The Board will impose its judgment on pupils and parents or legal guardians only when a pupil's dress and appearance affect the educational program of the schools.

The Board of Education has the following expectations regarding pupil dress and appearance:

1. Pupils are expected to be clean and well-groomed in their appearance.
2. Pupils are expected to avoid extremes in appearance that may interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
3. Pupils are expected to avoid dress or grooming that jeopardizes their health or safety or the health and safety of other pupils or damages school property.
4. Pupils are expected to avoid clothing or grooming practices that prevents the pupil from achieving his or her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The Board of Education prohibits pupils from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory that indicates that the pupil has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9 – Prohibition of Gang Related Apparel). The local law enforcement agency will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs that are associated with criminal activities.

The building principal shall determine whether the dress or grooming of pupils comes within these prohibitions.

Staff members shall demonstrate, by example, appropriate attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

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