

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the Charlotte County Public Schools primarily rests with parents and the students themselves. Some student apparel may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate in other settings.

The School Board of Charlotte County believes that there is a relationship between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude, and achievement. A school may elect to participate in a uniform dress code which follows school board guidelines and receives school board approval. Once a uniform dress code is approved for a school, students must follow the school's adopted code or face consequences as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct "Matrix of Infractions and Consequences."

To assist parents and students in making appropriate attire decisions for school, the School Board has established the following guidelines for appearance and dress.

1. Clothing must have sleeves and cover the body from shoulder to shoulder, one armpit across to the other armpit, and down to approximately mid-thigh (see image to the right). Undergarments must not be viewable. Rips, holes, or tears in clothing must be below mid-thigh. A sleeve is defined as the part of a garment that wholly or partly covers a person's arm.
2. Footwear which is appropriate to all activities and conditions must be worn at all times.
3. Hats, headgear, including hoods, or sunglasses may only be worn when students are out of doors during school hours.
4. In order to maintain a high level of student safety, high school students are required to wear school issued identification badges during regular school hours.
5. Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms, or safety gear and must be approved by the principal before being worn during the school day.
6. See-through or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of this dress code.
7. Gang paraphernalia, garments and/or jewelry, tattoos, or other insignias, which display or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, alcohol, or tobacco-related wording/graphics or may tend to provoke violence or disruption in school shall not be worn.
8. Clothing must not state, imply, or depict hate speech or imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected class.
9. Clothing and accessories that endanger students or staff shall not be worn.



10. Individual schools are expected to use the state and district dress and grooming guidelines as minimum standards. The principal or the principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel conforms to the dress code. When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code, or is disruptive or inappropriate, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school, or a student may be sent home to change clothes.

Note: The principal may modify the dress code for extra-curricular school functions.

Effective July 1, 2011, Florida Statute prohibits a student, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment. Any student who violates this statute is subject to the following specified disciplinary actions as prescribed by Florida law.

First offense: A student must be given a verbal warning and the school principal/designee must call the student's parent or guardian.

Second offense: The student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 5 days and the school principal/designee must meet with the student's parent or guardian.

Third and subsequent offense: A student must receive an in-school suspension for a period not to exceed 3 days. The student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days. The school principal/designee must call the student's parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student's in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

Florida Statute 1001.43(1)(b); 1006.07(2)(d)