

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The Warwick School Department supports dress standards that further the District's strategic goals and ensure equitable educational access for all students. The Warwick School Committee expects that all students will dress in a manner that is appropriate for the school day or for any school-sponsored event, while the school committee respects that responsibility for student dress rests primarily with the students and their parents.

A student's appearance must not disrupt the teaching/learning environment or compromise reasonable standards of health and safety. Attire that depicts or advocates violence, criminal activity, pornography, the use of alcohol or drugs, or hate speech is strictly prohibited. Administrators, teachers, and other school personnel will share responsibility for enforcing the District's dress code. Dress standards shall be applied consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or repression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size. Enforcement of these standards should minimize the loss of educational time. Student dress shall only be regulated when, in the judgment of school administrators, there is a reasonable expectation that there is a breach of the student dress code policy.

Student Code of Ethics

In order to enhance the educational environment and promote proper personal growth habits, a dress code has been established for the Warwick Public Schools. The purpose of this code is to remove distracting, disruptive, and dangerous apparel from the educational environment. The code has been written not to infringe upon the individuality of the students but rather to create a feeling and awareness of community pride within the student body.

In adopting this code, the district hopes to create a healthy, and safe environment that shall be conducive to good education and beneficial to all students. It is the School Committee's intent that students wear appropriate, nondisruptive clothing, and, in keeping with that intent, students are required to comply with the following:

1. Clothing fabric must cover all private body parts and/or undergarments and must not be see-through. Articles of clothing must cover the torso, to be appropriate to the school environment and/or nondisruptive in the classroom. Undergarment waistbands and/or straps that are incidentally visible under clothing are permitted; however, undergarments may not be worn as outerwear.

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2. Sunglasses may not be worn in classrooms/building unless medical reasons exist.
3. No hats/hoods may be worn within the building unless authorized by administration.
4. No clothing that promotes alcohol, drugs, violence, profanity, or is obscene as that word is construed by the United States Supreme Court decisions shall be worn in a school building.
5. Footwear such as shoes or boots shall be worn in the school buildings. Shoes need to be secured to feet.
6. No chains, necklaces, or bracelets that could cause injury or disrupt the educational process shall be worn in a school building.

In the event that this policy is not followed, the following action will be taken;

Any student whose attire does not meet the requirements of this policy may be asked to remedy the matter by covering, changing, or removing the non-complying clothing, jewelry, or personal item where appropriate.

Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if available. If the student's own clothing is not available, the school will provide inconspicuous clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day. If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear.

Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school.

The School Committee recognizes that a student may be exempted from the provisions of the dress code due to health or handicapping conditions. Exceptions to the dress code will be granted by the building principal upon presentation of substantive evidence from the child's physician. Such evidence shall include the specific condition and how the child's health will be affected by the dress code, information regarding any previous instances of problems, and the length of time the exception is to be in place.

Adopted: 6/10/86

Revised: 12/2/86 and 7/9/96, 08/16/2022, 02/07/2023

LEGAL REFS.: General Laws of R.I., 16-21-21