

Student Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in good taste and appropriately for weather conditions. Clothing which distracts others is not appropriate for school as it interferes with the learning process. Proper etiquette, social customs, and grooming affect the educational process; therefore, students should wear to school or functions appropriate clothing that meet the standards of the educational environment as detailed in this policy.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to the educational process, the Eastford Board of Education (the "Board") prohibits the following from wear during the academic school day:

- a. Coats, and heavy jackets or other attire normally worn as outerwear should not be worn, carried, or kept in the classroom during regular school hours without permission. Outerwear includes: coats, jackets, windbreakers, nylon pullovers, down vests, and other clothing that the administration deems inappropriate. This outerwear should be stored in lockers.
- b. Head coverings of any kind, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, masks, visors, kerchiefs, athletic sweatbands, hats, caps, or hoods are prohibited. A headband worn behind the ears and over the top of the head for the purpose of holding hair in place is allowed. A sweatband or a headband, worn across the forehead, is not allowed. Wearing a hat (unless required by a doctor's order) is not allowed in the building when school is in session. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck. They are to be kept in provided lockers during regular school hours. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief, or as required or permitted in conjunction with school district health and safety protocols, shall not be prohibited under this policy. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.
- c. Items a. and b. above must be secured in the student's locker or other storage area before school starts. Items not stored will be confiscated by the administration.
- d. Footwear which mars floors or is a safety hazard. For health reasons, shoes must be worn at all times.
- e. Sunglasses, whether worn or carried, unless required pursuant to a documented medical issue, shall not be worn indoors.
- f. Spiked or studded bracelets, oversized or multi-finger rings, belts or any other article of attire with spikes or studs attached, or any other clothing item that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students or staff.

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- g. Clothing should be free of slogans, names, titles, or the like, which are defamatory toward person(s), group(s), the school or other organizations. Attire or accessories that contain vulgarity or that contain overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures which are likely to incite or disrupt the educational environment.
- h. Apparel which is worn to symbolize membership in a gang or clique and are likely to incite a disturbance.
- i. Attire or accessories depicting or suggesting violence so as to disrupt the educational environment or that provokes others to act violently or causes others to be intimidated by fear of violence or that constitute "fighting words", including but not limited to attire or accessories depicting the Confederate flag and/or the Nazi swastika.
- j. Attire or accessories that depict logo or emblems that encourage the use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages.
- k. See-through clothing, shirts and/or blouses that reveal the abdomen, chest or undergarments. All shirts and blouses must reach the waistline and no midriff is to be exposed at any time. Tops with spaghetti straps or halter tops are not allowed. Undergarments must be covered at all times. Shorts, miniskirts, or pants that reveal the upper thigh or undergarments are prohibited.
- l. Backpacks and/or book bags are permitted to be carried between classes, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.

Students will be informed of dress code violations by school staff and have the opportunity to dress appropriately. Non-compliance or repeated infractions of Board policy may result in administrative referral, parental notification, and/or school discipline up to and including expulsion in accordance with the Board's policy on student discipline.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51 (definition of protective hairstyle hairstyles)