

# Bedford County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in February</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Student Dress Code</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.310</b>	Issued Date: <b>02/21/08</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.310</b>	Issued: <b>08/20/98</b>

1 *The mission of the Bedford County Board of Education is to provide an environment that enables each*  
2 *student to learn and become a good citizen. In a continuing effort to foster a productive learning climate*  
3 *and improve upon school culture, the Board has established a dress code.*

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5 *The Student Dress Code is a proactive and effective strategy to promote enhanced student behavior and*  
6 *appearance, which are key ingredients of a positive learning environment in which student achievement*  
7 *and safety are the highest priorities.*

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9 *This policy is mandated for grades 6-12 and voluntary compliance for K-5 students is encouraged. The*  
10 *Student Dress Code shall be in effect during school hours and at any school activity or event at which*  
11 *student attendance is required. Voluntary and after-hours extracurricular activities are not subject to*  
12 *the dress code.*

## 13 14 **I. ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE IN BEDFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS (Grades 6-12)**

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16 A) Pants, jeans, shorts, capri pants, skirts, skorts or jumpers in solid colors with no embellishments  
17 of any kind. (Embellishments may be defined as elaborate decoration or adornments).  
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19 B) All shirts next to skin shall be properly buttoned and tucked inside pants, jeans, shorts, skorts  
20 or skirts. Chests and midriffs must be covered.  
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22 C) Shirts with short or long sleeves and a collar (polo, dress-style with buttons, or turtleneck), in  
23 the solid color of white or one of the additional solid colors approved by the school. T-shirts  
24 or other undergarments with or without sleeves may be worn underneath these required shirt  
25 types. These must be solid white or one of the selection of additional solid colors approved by  
26 the school. No shirt may display any writing, pictures or images except for school logos. Shirts  
27 next to the skin must be tucked in.  
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29 D) Shirts with a squared off tail that reaches no more than six (6) inches below the belt are not  
30 required to be worn tucked in, provided they are worn with an undershirt that is tucked in.  
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### 32 **Acceptable Attire in Individual Schools**

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34 In addition to the white system-wide color, individual schools shall approve up to a selection of four  
35 (4) additional solid colors for shirts.  
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### 37 **Implementation Details**

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39 Students' dress and grooming will be clean and neat. Clothes and appearance must be safe and not  
40 disruptive to the educational process.  
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**II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The Student Dress Code will be in effect during both the school year and summer school program.
- B. Students will wear clothing of appropriate size. Appropriate sizes are defined as being of a proportional size to the wearer (no more than one size smaller or larger).
- C. The school system will not require specific brands of clothing. No writing is allowed on clothing except manufacturer's logos or trademarks which may be no larger than two (2) inches. School logos of any size are permitted.
- D. All clothing must be hemmed. No drawstrings, cut-offs or rolled-up cuffs are allowed on pants, jeans, capri pants, shorts or skirts.

**Pants, jeans, shorts, capri pants, skirts, skorts, jumpers or dresses**

1. Full-length, cropped, and capri pants are permitted.
2. Pants, jeans, shorts, skirts and skorts with elastic waistbands must be worn at the waist. Pants, jeans, shorts, skirts and skorts must be worn at the waist, and those with belt loops must be worn with a belt inside the belt loops. No baggie or oversized pants shall be allowed. Pant length should not fall below the top of the heel to prevent the practice of walking on pant legs.
3. Shorts, jumpers, dresses, skirts or skorts must extend below the fingertip when student is standing straight, relaxed and flat footed.
4. Dresses with short or long sleeves and a collar (polo, dress-style or turtleneck) in approved solid colors are acceptable.

**Outerwear**

Lightweight outerwear, with or without school logos, in solid, approved colors are permitted. The restrictions on the appearance and size of manufacturer's logos shall be the same as on shirts: 2". There are no size restrictions pertaining to school logos.

A collared, solid color shirt within the prescribed colors with a squarely hemmed shirt tail may be worn in an unbuttoned fashion as outerwear as long as it complies with the previously stated guidelines as to shirt color and logos. A polo shirt, buttoned dress shirt, or turtleneck shirt in an approved color must be worn under the open shirt.

"Hoodies" in approved colors are considered as allowable outerwear; however, at no time may hoods be worn on the head inside the school building.

Heavy outerwear may not be worn during the school day.

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### **Attire for Special Occasions**

1. The principals of individual schools may allow exceptions to the Student Dress Code for school-wide activities up to ten (10) school days per year. Such exceptions would include a particular mode of attire for special occasion days such as School Spirit Week or for particular school-sponsored or school-related activities during the course of the school day.
2. In addition, principals will have the authority to approve occasional variations from the Student Dress Code for recognized school activities as deemed appropriate. Such attire will be tucked in at the waist whenever practical as determined by the principal. Student Dress Code pants, jeans, shorts, skirts, capri pants or skorts must be worn at all times.

### **Footwear**

Footwear must be worn at all times. Laces on shoes must be tied. No skate shoes, flip flops, or house shoes are allowed.

### **Assistance with Dress Code Attire**

The principal of each school will establish procedures and maintain a minimum inventory of required student clothing to provide emergency clothing to students who are found to be in violation of the student dress code attire.

## **III. DRESS CODE PROHIBITIONS**

*(These restrictions do not apply to non-mandatory after-school activities such as athletic events.)*

- A. “Cargo” shorts or pants are not permissible.
- B. Leisure pants, jogging pants, sweatpants and athletic shorts are not permissible.
- C. Ripped, torn clothing or clothing with visible holes is prohibited. In addition, no see-through clothing is to be worn. Stressed and excessively frayed jeans are not allowed.
- D. Logos or manufacturers’ trademarks with writing or images of substances that are illegal for teens (i.e., drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) or are otherwise offensive, lewd, indecent, vulgar, obscene, profane, gang-related or constitute racial or ethnic slurs may not be worn. This prohibition applies to all school activities.
- E. Tattoos that display drugs, alcohol or tobacco products, or gang or sex-related words or images must not be visible.
- F. Chains and spiked accessories are not permissible. Belts may not hang down as a “tail” from the belt loop.

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4 G. Head coverings are not to be worn.

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6 H. The wearing of jewelry in any visible piercing other than the ear is prohibited during school time  
7 or school functions.  
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10 **IV. COMPLIANCE**

11 *School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance*  
12 *with dress code requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the dress code, discipline*  
13 *is appropriate. The following discipline procedures will apply:*  
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16 **A. First Offense**

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18 1. A student whose clothing or accessories violate the Student Dress Code shall be referred to the  
19 office for remediation.  
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21 2. Such correction may include use of school-provided clothing, if available, until the end of the  
22 school day. Such correction must not involve modifying clothes to make them acceptable (i.e.  
23 covering holes or tears in pants with duct tape). If such correction is not obtained, the student  
24 may be referred to in-school suspension either for the remainder of the day or until a parent or  
25 designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school.  
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27 3. If unresolved, the infraction will be communicated to the parent or guardian in a verifiable  
28 way.  
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30 **B. Second Offense**

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32 1. One day of in-school suspension which may take place in an alternative setting as determined  
33 by the principal.  
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35 2. The parent will be required to come to the school for a conference.  
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37 **C. Third Offense**

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39 1. One day of in-school suspension.  
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41 2. An “overnight” or “provisional” suspension. This one-day, out-of-school suspension is waived  
42 if parents accompany the student to the school the following morning for a conference with the  
43 principal or his/her designee.  
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45 3. The infraction will be communicated to the parent or guardian both verbally and via certified  
46 mail.  
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#### D. Subsequent and Repeated Infractions

Repeated violations of the student dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior and/or defiance of school authority. These violations will result in out-of-school suspensions as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Due Process. (Bedford County OSS involves attending Bedford County Learning Academy located in the old Harris annex).

#### E. Systemwide Dress Code Exemption Process

Schools will provide reasonable accommodation to students whose religious beliefs, medical condition or disability requires special clothing.

To request such accommodation:

- \* Parents must obtain a copy of this policy and an exemption form from their school. The exemption form must be completed by the parent and returned to the school. The school will forward this information to Supervisor of Student Services.
- \* The Supervisor of Student Services will review the exemption request. The parent will be notified in writing of the status of the request within ten (10) days.
- \* To appeal, the parent may request a meeting with the Supervisor of Student Services. Based upon the outcome of that meeting, the Supervisor of Student Services will notify the parent in writing of the status of the request within five (5) days.
- \* A further appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to Policy 6.305-*Complaints & Grievances*.

School system or campus personnel will not discriminate against any student who has been exempted from the mandatory compliance with the standard dress code because of objections based on religious, medical or disability needs.

#### V. AUTHORITY OF THE BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board reserves the right to modify this policy as necessary. The school system reserves the right to determine what may be disruptive and unsafe.

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##### Legal References:

TCA § 49-1-302  
TCA § 49-6-4215

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##### Cross References:

Complaints and Grievances 6.305  
Discipline Procedures 6.313  
Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316