

POLICY

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

5511 - DRESS AND GROOMING

Section: Pupils

The Board of Education recognizes each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the student's personal style and individual preferences. The Franklin Township Board of Education recognizes the right of pupils and parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) to exercise personal judgment in matters of dress within certain guidelines

Besides being neat and clean, clothing and footwear should not be hazardous to the health and safety of self and others, nor detract from or interfere with the educational environment.

1. In the matter of hairstyle, the Board recognizes that students have the right to exercise judgment so long as they do not:
 - a. Present a danger to their health and safety, or the health and safety of the staff and student body; and
 - b. Cause an interference with schoolwork and create a classroom disorder.
2. With regard to student dress, the Board specifies the following:
 - a. Students may not wear clothing deemed to be a safety hazard while participating in activities;
 - b. Dress which restricts the student from doing his/her best work is discouraged;
 - c. Styles that create or may create a classroom disturbance are not permitted;
 - d. Articles of clothing which cause excessive wear or damage to school property are not permitted; and

e. Wearing apparel which may be a health hazard to the student is not permitted while in school, without doctor's permission.

Clothing and accessories with slogans, symbols or displays about (or suggestive of) inappropriate language, sayings, weapons, logos, racial implications, sex, gender bias, or hate speech, and which is disruptive to the educational environment is also unacceptable and prohibited. Any garment promoting alcohol, tobacco or drugs is strictly forbidden.

Appropriate attire for school trips and school functions may be somewhat different from that deemed acceptable for normal school wear. The Principal/teacher will announce such changes prior to the trip or function.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to limit the responsibility of staff to enforce regulations concerning hair or clothing in the interest of safety or full participation in any specific teaching situation. If students appear to be in violation of this policy in addition to parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) notification, consequences will be applied based on the Code of Conduct (Policy 5131).

Prohibited attire or head coverings are not to be worn in the building, unless permitted for religious, medical, or other approved reasons.

The Board of Education requests continued cooperation from parents and guardians in helping the school to attain its objective of fostering pride and good taste in clothes and grooming. At all times, staff will continue to exercise the prerogative to inform parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of individual students in regards to either the suitability or permissibility of certain attire. Final decisions regarding dress and grooming rest with the building administration.

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

Adopted: November 13, 2023