

**WOONSOCKET EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL DRESS CODE POLICY – P4-15**

The Woonsocket Education Department has adopted a school dress code that requires apparel and grooming appropriate to the learning activity and age of the student. The purpose of the code is to enhance the educational environment in our schools by promoting good personal habits, diminishing socioeconomic tensions, and removing distracting and disruptive apparel and grooming from the classroom. In adopting this code, the Woonsocket Education Department strives to create an educational environment conducive to teaching and learning. Apparel and grooming will be clean, neat and in keeping with health and safety requirements. Any dress and grooming that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, including distracting extremes in dress or make-up, are not in compliance with this code.

The Dress Code as written applies to both boys and girls.

Waivers to the dress code policy will be issued at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee by filing a waiver request stating the specific reason for your request (i.e. religious freedom, health consideration, or other reason provided by law).

Principals will have discretion to waive dress code for specific purposes (school spirit week, field day to raise money for a cause, etc) or to specific groups for events (scout days, ROTC, athletic championships, band/chorus events, etc). Middle/High School students are required to bring a change of clothing to school for gym class and then follow the dress code at the end of the class.

Students from other communities that attend the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC) are expected to comply with this policy as with other school policies. Students receiving walk-in special education services are exempt from this policy.

The administration shall be the final judge of appropriate and acceptable dress. Students in violation of the dress code will be referred to the office and administration for it to render decisions in individual cases. Any student in violation of the dress code will be required to immediately make the necessary adjustments to comply with the code. Disciplinary action may be applied when warranted. Interpretation of these rules shall be at the sole discretion of the school administration.

District Dress Code

Students may wear any clothing that meets the following guidelines:

Apparel shall cover the torso, shoulders, hips, upper legs and be opaque.

No bare shoulders or backs, including tank tops, muscle shirts, low-cut necklines that show cleavage, thin straps, strapless or slip tops.

No sagging or low-cut pants worn below the waist or excessively short skirts or shorts (skirts, dresses, and shorts that are shorter than the tip of the fingertips when arms are fully extended at their sides) are not allowed. Tights and leggings may not be worn as an outer garment.

Pajama tops/bottoms are prohibited.

No apparel or accessories shall advocate drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, or discrimination. Clothing that contains profanity, threats, or gang symbols is prohibited. Bandannas, do-rags, and other similar head attire are not to be worn in the school. Hoods cannot be worn indoors.

No apparel, accessories, footwear, or hairstyle shall be worn that is capable of inflicting damage to the wearer, another person, or school property. Wallet chains are prohibited. Sun-glasses are prohibited.

Footwear must be closed toe and heel. Heels must be low to ensure safety.

Possible consequences for failure to comply with dress code:

- Verbal warning to students and parents
- Conference with student
- Written warning
- School shirt provided for the day with parent/guardian permission
- Conference with parent
- In school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Referral to guidance for truancy

1st Passage approved by WSC: 9-10-14
2nd Passage approved by WSC: 9-24-14
Amendments approved by WSC: 5-25-2016