

**Policy**

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DRESS AND GROOMING

The Mount Laurel Township School District Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the pupil's personal style and individual preferences. The board will not interfere with the right of pupils and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools.

Pupils may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that:

- A. Present a health or safety hazard to the individual pupil or to others;
- B. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or
- D. Prevent the pupil from achieving his or her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The building principal shall determine whether the dress or grooming of pupils comes within these prohibitions.

The chief school administrator shall, in consultation with principals, teaching staff members, pupils, and parents, prepare student dress guidelines that impose only minimum and necessary limitations on a pupil's taste and individuality. The guidelines shall be updated periodically. The standards for dress will be disseminated in the student handbooks and may vary slightly from school to school as appropriate for the different grade levels.

Students shall be required to wear clothing appropriate for participation physical education classes that accommodates physical activity and is necessary for the protection of the school's premises for both indoor and outdoor activities. Pupils at the middle school who have engaged in strenuous physical activities shall be strongly encouraged to take-showers before they return to the classroom.

Adopted: August 28, 1984  
Revised: April 28, 1998; May 24, 2005  
NJSBA Review/Update: June 2013  
Readopted: January 28, 2014

Key Words

Dress, Grooming, Attire

**Legal References:** N.J.S.A. 18A.11-1                      General mandatory powers and duties

**Cross References:**   \*5131            Student Conduct and Discipline  
                              \*5142            Student Safety

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.