

## 5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

A pupil's dress, like his/her conduct, is and should be a personal matter. Insistence by the school on rigid conformity is prohibited. However, reasonable standards of good taste and proper grooming are to be encouraged and enforced. Additionally, pupil dress or grooming must not be such so as to negatively impact the education, health, or safety of any pupil. The pupil dress regulations will be reviewed and published each year.

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

Adopted: 25 April 2012



## R 5511 DRESS CODE

### A. Elementary School Dress Code

The West Milford Public Schools believe that everyone has the right to learn in an optimal educational environment. In order to maintain that environment pupils are required to dress in a manner that is not distracting, disruptive or disrespectful to peers and staff alike. Pupils are responsible for their own actions and are encouraged to develop and express their own individuality. Therefore, the following dress code has been developed. If a pupil chooses to dress inappropriately or in a manner that is not in accordance with these standards, referral to the Dean of Students for appropriate action will result. The school prohibits anything it deems to be disruptive, distracting, provocative, provoking, and/or intimidating that rises to the level in the school's view as having a detrimental effect on the safe and educational atmosphere in the school zone including, but not limited to the following items:

1. Hats and Sunglasses - Hats, bandanas and sunglasses are prohibited in school. If a hat, bandana or sunglasses are worn to school it must be placed in the pupil's locker before reporting to homeroom and remain there until dismissal. Hats, bandanas and sunglasses that are seen outside of pupil lockers will be taken from pupils.
2. Coats, Jackets and Backpacks - Coats and jackets, as well as backpacks must be placed in the pupil's locker before homeroom and may not be worn or carried during the school day. Gym bags and large hand bags should not be used to carry books.
3. Shirts and Accessories - Halter tops, half-shirts, tank tops, short or low-cut sweaters and blouses, and mesh shirts, or any tops that expose the stomach, are prohibited. No undergarments should be showing. Tee shirts, any article of clothing, backpacks, or purses, or anything attached to such things, such as pins, patches, etc., will be considered inappropriate if they are of a sexually suggestive nature, or if they promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or if they are the cause of any disruption.
4. Shorts, Pants and Skirts - The length of a pupil's shorts or skirt must reach to or below the tip of the middle finger when the pupil is standing straight up with arms straight at his/her sides. Pants must be worn at or above the hips. If this is not the case, the clothing is inappropriate.



# REGULATION

## WEST MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PUPILS

R 5511/page 2 of 3

Dress Code

5. Jewelry - For safety reasons, choke chains, spiked collars or other jewelry, and pocket chains are prohibited. Safety pins and paper clips may not be used as a form of jewelry.
6. Make-Up - Pupils may wear make-up to school, however face-painting or grossly exaggerated make-up is prohibited.
7. Sleepwear and Footwear - Sleepwear, including boxer shorts, pajamas, and flannel pants may not be worn as outerwear in the classroom or the gymnasium. Footwear must be worn at all times. Flip-flops, Adidas-type sandals, and slippers are not permitted.

The school reserves the right to amend the above list without prior warning to the pupils for the purpose of maintaining a safe and educational environment.

### B. Middle School and High School Dress Code

The dress code is implemented in order to create a reasonable and appropriate learning environment. Certain articles of clothing are prohibited in order to reduce distractions that may inhibit learning.

1. In specialized areas of instruction such as shops, labs or physical education, where unique health and safety concerns exist, pupils will be expected to follow guidelines established by each department.
2. Footwear must be worn at all times.
3. The style of clothing, hair, and jewelry must be such that it would not endanger anyone's health or safety. No chains or spikes are permitted.
4. Halter shirts, half shirts, button down or pullover shirts, sweaters, blouses, or sweat shirts that expose any one or more of the following areas are prohibited: the chest area, stomach area, waist area and or the small (lower portion) of the back.
5. No article of clothing is permitted that exhibits rips, tears, or holes that causes the clothing to become revealing or suggestive.
6. Low riding pants or skirts are permitted only if the shirt is long enough to cover the stomach, waist area and the small of the back.
7. The wearing of skirts or pants (long or short) in a manner that causes the exposure of any under garment is prohibited.



# REGULATION

## WEST MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PUPILS

R 5511/page 3 of 3

Dress Code

8. Patches, decals, or sayings affixed to clothing are inappropriate if they are suggestive, drug-related, obscene in nature, gang-related, or cause a disruption in normal proceedings.
9. Muscle shirts, mesh shorts, and loose-fitting tank tops are not permitted.
10. Shorts, skirts and dresses must be fingertip length; no underwear should be exposed.
11. Headwear including hats, headbands, bandanas, etc. are prohibited.
12. No sunglasses.

Some specific guidelines are:

Halters, half-shirts, shorts, or sweaters and blouses that expose breasts or stomachs may not be worn. Shorts and skirts should not be a distraction. They should not be above the extended fingertips. Muscle shirts, mesh shirts, and loose-fitting tank tops are not permitted. Patches, decals, or sayings affixed to clothing are inappropriate if they are suggestive, drug-related, obscene in nature, or cause a disruption in normal proceedings.

Note: Classroom teachers have the major responsibility for interpreting and enforcing these standards for their individual classes. Pupils are expected to cooperate courteously when teachers or administrators enforce these standards. Teachers should assign a detention for inappropriate attire in each class where it is worn.

Issued: 25 April 2012

