

POLICY 5431  
STUDENT DRESS CODE

The Kenosha Unified School District Board is committed to providing students with an educational environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

The District retains the right to monitor and take action when student attire presents a health or safety hazard, or disrupts the educational environment.

All exceptions to this policy and rule, based on religious beliefs or medical conditions, requested by the parent or guardian must be documented and approved by the Superintendent/designee.

**LEGAL REF.:** Wisconsin Statutes

Sections: 118.001 Duties and powers of school boards; construction of statutes  
20.13(1)(a) School board powers  
First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

**CROSS REF.:** 5431.1 School Uniforms  
5438 Gangs and Gang-Related Activities

**AFFIRMED:** August 13, 1991

**REVISED:** January 11, 1994  
September 9, 1997  
May 22, 2007  
September 22, 2009  
October 26, 2010  
December 17, 2013  
July 22, 2014

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All students are expected to exemplify appropriate hygiene and dress standards in a manner that projects an appropriate image for the student, school, and District. The District shall not require specific brands of clothing. No student shall be permitted to wear any clothing which is normally identified with a gang or gang-related activity (including gang-related colors if for purposes of gang identification), or clothing that contains pictures and/or writing referring to alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, sexual references, profanity, illegal drugs, bigoted epithets, harassment/hate messages, or messages of hostility toward race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. If there is a disagreement between students and/or parents and the staff regarding the appropriateness of clothing, the principal will make the final determination.

Bottoms

Bottoms may not be see-through  
Must fit appropriately and not drag on the floor;  
Must be at the waist and appropriately fastened with belts when needed;  
Must be clean and in appropriate repair, holes and rips, below mid-thigh are permissible but rips or holes above mid-thigh must not show skin.  
Under clothing must be covered; and the waist must be covered at all times  
Dresses, skirts, skorts, and shorts must be at least mid-thigh length at all times  
Leggings and yoga pants may not be worn as bottoms; however, leggings may be worn beneath dresses, skirts, skorts, shorts and tunics

Tops

Tops may not be see-through  
Must be long enough to cover waistline, no skin showing between bottoms and tops when seated or standing;  
Must cover chest and undergarments at all times  
Sleeveless shirts are acceptable if they reach edge of shoulder and arm opening cannot be excessive  
Students may not wear tank tops  
Tops must be clean and in appropriate repair with no holes or tears; and must fit appropriately

Footwear

Athletic shoes, laced shoes, shoe boots, loafers, dress shoes, or sandals (are permissible)  
Shoes must be secured on the feet  
No house slippers are allowed  
Elementary: shoes must have a strap around heel (no flip-flops)

Inappropriate attire and Student ID Cards:

Pajamas, undershirts or undergarments may not be worn as outerwear;  
Attire that may be considered weapons, including but not limited to chain belts or wallet chains will not be allowed;  
Jewelry, piercing, tattoos or similar artifacts that are obscene or may cause disruptions to the educational environment are prohibited;

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Hoods, hats, caps, bandanas, sweatbands, skullcaps, plastic hair bags, hair nets, or do rags are not allowed within the building;

Grooming items (hair pics, combs, etc.) may not be worn in the hair

No outerwear: coats, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves may not be worn inside unless there is administrative approval

Face coverings; (sunglasses, masks, etc.) may not be worn in building

Backpacks may be used at high school level during the school day;

Elementary and middle level students may not use backpacks during the school day without administrative approval

~~High school level students must have an ID in their possession at all times and have them easily accessible during all school activities (academic, extra-curricular, co-curricular).~~

Middle **and high school level** students will be required to wear student identification (I.D.'s) during the school day and have them easily accessible during all school activities (academic, extra-curricular, co-curricular).

It shall be left to the discretion of the principal/designee whether or not a student is in compliance with the student dress code policy. Students who violate the policy for school attire will put on clothing that is appropriate or contact parent or guardian to bring in appropriate clothing. The principal/designee may call a conference with the parent/guardian, students and counselor to assist with compliance. Refusal and/or repeated violations of school attire policy may lead to further disciplinary action.