

Standardized Dress Code FAQ

Updated 9/12/11

1. When does the new dress code go into effect?
 - A. It will be required district-wide for 2011-2012 school year. In the buildings that began the dress code for the current school year, the new dress code will go into effect January 3, 2010.

2. Will this new policy affect Carver and/or Cunningham?
 - A. No, Carver and Cunningham will continue with their current dress code.

3. What are the changes for the proscriptive dress code effective January 3, 2010?
 - A. ELEMENTARY:
 - Belt colors are no longer limited/restricted
 - Prek-2nd grade students are not required to wear a belt
 - Brown and Gray bottoms are no longer prohibited
 - Cap sleeves are no longer allowed
 - Leggings and tights in any color are allowed with a knee length cover
 - Rivets are no longer prohibited

 - B. MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL:
 - Belt colors are no longer limited/restricted
 - Brown and Gray bottoms are no longer prohibited
 - Bottoms can NOT be form fitting
 - Rivets are no longer prohibited
 - Cap sleeves are no longer allowed
 - Colors for tops are unchanged from the current dress code

4. Are belts required to be worn?
 - A. Students in grades PreK-2 are not required to wear a belt. Students in grades 3-12 must wear a belt if they have belt loops on the garment.

5. Can students wear any color belt?
 - A. Yes, any plain, solid color belt, without excessive metal can be worn in the middle or high school. PreK-5 students can wear belts with graphics so long as they are not offensive.

6. Are rivets allowed on bottoms?
 - A. Yes, as long as bottoms being worn follow the dress code guidelines.

7. Can bottoms be worn that have any rips, voids, holes, or tears?
 - A. No.

8. Are t-shirts or camis allowed?
 - A. Yes, in approved colors and underneath approved tops. The combination may not be collarless.

9. Are jeggings and/or leggings of any kind allowed?
 - A. No, not at the secondary level. Leggings are allowed at the elementary level, as long as they are covered to the knees.

10. Can any athletic apparel be worn for bottoms?
 - A. No, sweat pants and/or athletic uniform bottoms cannot be worn.

11. When will the dress code go into effect for students?
 - A. It will be required district-wide for the 2011-12 school year. Individual buildings have the option of beginning this policy for the 2010-11 year with notification to parents by the end of this current school year.

12. Will there be a dress code for staff?
 - A. Yes, a staff dress code was developed over the summer with input from various employee groups and can be found on our website.

13. What happens if a student doesn't follow the dress code?
 - A. The purpose of discipline is to modify individual behavior through positive and supportive actions whenever possible. Allowable actions include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Any action deemed appropriate by the building administrator which may achieve discipline or behavior modification and which does not violate school policies or regulations.
 - b. Limited time away from normal school activities to gain composure or modify behavior.
 - c. Denial of special privileges which a student may have been given.
 - d. Detention before or after school. (Notification will be given twenty-four (24) hours prior to the detention date unless parent, guardian or legal custodian contact is made that same day and the student's transportation needs are resolved.)
 - e. Loss of extra-curricular activities.
 - f. Nonteaching day attendance.
 - g. In-school suspension (see Administrative Regulation 504.4-R1).
 - h. Individual management plan/Alternative School Program
 - i. Suspension out-of-school for up to 8 days. (See Adm. Regulation 504.4-R1). Suspensions of more than 5 days will not occur prior to approval from the administrator in charge of Student Services.

Student Rights

Each student will be afforded due process commensurate with the maximum possible consequences (see Adm. Regulation 504.3-R).

When a student, for disciplinary reasons, is to be out of school for more than ten days pending a hearing before the Board of Education, an alternative educational program will be offered by the school for the student to attend until the student is expelled or declared eligible to return to school.

The Waterloo Community School District has in force a Grievance Procedure, Policy 503.3, which provides students and parents a means of questioning the interpretation, application, or possible violation of policies and/or regulations of the District.

14. Are jeans of any color allowed?
 - A. No, no jeans of any color are acceptable.

15. What if my child has a disability that requires special clothing?
 - A. Exceptions to the dress code will be made for students with Individualized Education Plans, religious beliefs, JROTC uniform requirements, or health conditions that require accommodations. An exemption request must be submitted in writing to the building administrator. Appeals may be made to the Executive Director of Student and At-Risk Services.

16. Will there be assistance for parents who can't afford approved clothing?
 - A. Yes, assistance will be available for families including clothes closets where clothing can be exchanged. Families/students may apply for assistance with dress code items. Schools will maintain a clothes closet with a range of sizes, complying with their building rules and District Dress Code policy. Students who qualify for assistance will be provided dress code essentials at no charge, with a request that usable items be returned to the clothes closet when no longer needed. Applications for financial clothing assistance will be available at each school building and on the District website.

17. Will this new policy affect Carver and Cunningham's current dress code?
 - A. No, Carver and Cunningham will continue with their current dress code.

18. Are capris acceptable in the new policy?
 - A. Yes, as long as they aren't tight and the hem is below the knee. They must also follow the other dress code requirements of no stripes, checks, or plaids, embroider, decoration, etc. They can't be made of knit material, brand tags, strings, or be carpenter style.

19. Are other shirt colors available besides blue, black, white, or navy shirts?
- A. Yes, other color options will be allowed. The colors will be determined by each school.
 - B. **Approved East High Shirt Colors:** white, black, gray, and a range from peach to orange
Approved Expo Shirt Colors: all solid colors
Approved West High Shirt Colors: white, black, gray, and a range from pink to burgundy. No RED shirts.
 - C. **Approved Kittrell and Lincoln Shirt Colors:** all solid colors
20. Will there be a length requirement for skirts, shorts, and pants?
- A. Yes, the length requirement for shorts, skirts/rompers is to the top of the knee.
21. Why were jeans removed from the dress code policy?
- A. Jeans were removed from the dress code to keep holey, torn, ripped, sagging, too tight, or brand names from being worn to school.
22. Can other styles of dresses be worn if they adhere to the color and length in the policy? Such as solid color polo style dresses or shirt type dresses?
- A. Yes.
23. Will the district have a clothing company come into town with samples of clothing for parents to order and kids to try on so we get correct sizes?
- A. Expectations are items will be available locally or in a clothing catalog. A link is posted on the district front page with local vendors who carry approved dress code items. Each vendor has chosen to be included on this list.
24. How is this dress code going to be enforced since the last one wasn't enforced due to teachers/hall monitors being afraid to address the students and get labeled as a racist?
- A. The expectation is all staff will enforce the dress code.
25. What if I don't think my child's teachers clothing is appropriate being they are going to be allowed a "special dress code," designed by teachers themselves?
- A. Please discuss your concern with the building principal. The employee dress code is not posted on our website.
26. Is the district going to give me a clothing allowance to purchase new clothing for my kids?
- A. No, but assistance will be available for families including clothes closets where uniforms can be exchanged. Families/students may apply for assistance with dress code items. Schools will maintain a clothes closet with a range of sizes, complying with their building rules and District Dress Code policy. Students who qualify for assistance will be provided dress code essentials at no charge, with a request that usable items be returned

to the clothes closet when no longer needed. Applications for financial clothing assistance will be available at each school building and on the District website.

27. Why does Expo get to wear any solid shirt color and East and West have designated colors?

A. This was a school-based decision.

28. Why do shirts have to be tucked in?

A. Shirts will be required to be tucked in for a neater appearance and to reduce the likelihood of unapproved items being brought into the building.

29. I can't find this clothing anywhere locally. Where is it available?

A. There are many local stores who already provide the acceptable clothing. Meetings were held with local vendors to discuss ways to assure they can provide parents/guardians with clothing that fits the new dress code. All local clothing vendors were invited to attend the meeting. They discussed acceptable colors, styles, and types of clothing. A link is posted on the district front page with local vendors who carry approved dress code items. Each vendor has chosen to be included on this list.

30. What does a small logo mean on the polo shirts?

A. Small logos less than 1" are acceptable.

31. Are pockets on polo shirts acceptable?

A. Yes, pockets on shirts are acceptable as long as there isn't a design or a logo is smaller than 1".

32. Are mandarin collars acceptable on shirts?

A. Yes, mandarin collars are acceptable.

33. Will students be required to follow the dress code on picture day?

A. Yes, students will follow the dress code on picture day.

34. Will students have to comply with the dress code at extracurricular activities?

A. No, students do not have to comply with the dress code after school hours.

35. Are purses and backpacks of any color allowed?

A. Yes, as long as students store purses and backpacks in their lockers if they are in elementary or middle school. Please see Regulation 504.3R.

36. Are hoods on coats acceptable?

A. Yes, as long as they stored in the student's locker during the school day. Hooded sweatshirts or clothing with hoods can NOT be worn during the school day.

37. Are shoes of any color allowed?
A. Yes.
38. Are necklaces, scarves, bracelets, and earrings allowed?
A. Yes, but bandanas are not allowed. Scarves are allowed as an accessory, but not as head wear.
39. Are Columbia fleece jackets allowed with the new dress code?
A. Yes, Columbia Fleece and the word Columbia are acceptable within the dress code.
40. Can students wear football, basketball, and cheerleading uniforms on game days?
A. Yes, students can wear their game jerseys as long as they have a collared shirt under the jersey. Students have to follow the dress code for their bottoms, no warm up pants, cheerleading skirts, or sweats are allowed.
41. Are color logos on polos ok?
A. Yes, as long as the polo follows policy and logo is no larger than 1”.
42. Are straight leg pants acceptable?
A. Yes, as long as pants follow the policy. **Skinny pants are not acceptable.**
43. What color socks can be worn?
A. Guidelines must follow the dress code chart the same as tights, panty hose, or nylons.
44. What can students wear for gym clothes?
A. WEST- they can wear approved standardized dress code clothes for Fit and Flex classes. Students can wear the following for all PE classes: shorts, athletic pants, and a t-shirt of their choice, but not what they wore to school.
B. EAST- Students in any PE class (PE, Strength & Conditioning, Flex & Fit, or Cross Training) must change clothes for PE. They can wear a t-shirt (no undershirt, cut up shirts, or tank tops), shorts/sweats/capris/pajama pants are acceptable. Shorts must be knee length. Shirts can be short or long sleeved. Tennis shoes are required. No jackets or hooded sweatshirts.
C. EXPO- Students do not change for PE. They remain in dress code appropriate attire.
D. HOOVER, BUNGER,
E. CENTRAL-Students change into appropriate t-shirt and shorts.
F. CARVER- gray t-shirt and shorts.
45. Can students wear hats?
A. No, At the beginning of the school year it was decided that schools and the ESC could not hold jean days as fundraisers. Due to the fact that we may be limiting student participation due to lack of funds we feel it is best to not allow. Because of

gang related issues the high schools and middle school will not be allowed to have hat fundraisers.

- B. It was further decided that because not all students may have access to funds that no schools including elementary would be allowed to have a hat fundraiser. This year there will be no dress code exception fundraising events.

46. Can jackets be worn over shirts?

- A. It was decided that a combination outfit (Jacket and collarless shirt) can be worn but it must not be too revealing and that item with the collar (jacket) must remain on at all times. Jackets & Blazers can have an undershirt that is collarless example T-shirt plain color. If the outer layer (jacket) is taken off the under shirt must have a collar.

47. Can elementary students wear leggings?

- A. For elementary only. Students may wear polo shirt dresses with leggings but the dress must be knee length and solid color.

Cheerleads cannot wear skirts with leggings nor can they just wear cheerleading skirts. School Athletic departments can provide an alternative to uniforms for spirit day which could include: capris, shorts or long pants. As a reminder, the uniform tops must be worn with a collared shirt and cover the stomach.

48. Can a student have a purse or backpack?

- A. Yes, colors are not restricted for purses or backpacks. Individual schools can choose to be more restrictive.

49. Do socks and belts need to be a certain color?

- A. No, students can wear any color sock. Carver has its own requirements for socks, please check with the school for details. Belts can be any solid color. Middle & High school belts cannot have words or graphics. Any color that doesn't go with school colors could be worn (example orange belt at West). However schools may choose to implement a more restrictive policy for belts.

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To submit a FAQ, please email hemannk@waterloo.k12.ia.us. Thank you.