

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY

I. Purpose

The Lanett City Board of Education believes a safe and disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a high performing school. The implementation of school uniforms will help minimize disruptive behavior, promote respect for oneself and others, build school/community spirit, and, more significantly, help to maintain high academic standards. The board also feels that the wearing of uniforms by students will help lessen the impact of socioeconomic differences. In addition, it allows for immediate identification of intruders on campus and encourages students to concentrate on learning rather than on what they are wearing.

II. Implementation Process

Students will be required to start wearing uniforms at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

III. Information Dissemination

School officials will communicate with parents/guardians concerning the uniform policy, including general guidelines for implementation, by using one or more of the following: newsletters, parent forums, PTO meetings, TV and radio announcements, flyers and web site.

IV. Appearance

In addition to being required to wear school uniforms, all students are to be well-groomed and dressed appropriately for school and school activities. A student's dress and/or appearance shall:

1. Support, not disrupt, the learning environment
2. Constitute no threat to health or safety
3. Be tasteful and unable to be construed as provocative or obscene
4. Reflect practices of good hygiene and cleanliness

Reasonable consideration shall be made for those students who, because of a sincerely held religious belief or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. The waiver request shall be in writing from the parent or guardian and approved by the principal, principal's designee or a committee selected by the principal, on an annual basis. In considering a waiver request, the principal, principal's designee or committee members have the right to request additional documentation from medical officials and/or religious leaders.

Reasonable accommodation shall be made by the principal for students involved in special duties, activities, or projects approved by the school. This would include but not be limited to athletics, P.E. classes, special events, and other activities that require non-conforming dress on a school campus during a school-sponsored event.

V. **School Uniform**

The principal and/or principal's designee will implement the school uniform and appearance policy in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate.

Good judgment in considering issues such as age, developmental stages, and body type are expected of all students, parents, and guardians in the selection of school attire and appearance. School uniforms must be kept neat, clean and properly fitted.

A. **Shirts**

1. Solid white, black, navy or ecru (light tan) button front oxford, polo, turtleneck, blouse-type shirts with sleeves (long sleeves or short sleeves)
2. A small, unobtrusive logo that can be covered with a quarter is acceptable
3. All tops must be long enough to remain tucked in as part of the uniform.
4. Undershirts must be solid black or white with no wording or pictures (t-shirts are considered undershirts)
5. No see-through or mesh clothing that will reveal the body or will reveal undergarments shall be allowed.
6. Clothing shall be worn as it was designed to be worn (not inside-out or backwards, etc.).
7. A solid white, black, navy or ecru crew-neck or v-neck (with appropriate shirt underneath) sweater or sweater vest is permissible in cold weather.
8. No sleeveless, spaghetti straps, or tank top shirts are permitted

B. **Pants, Skirts, Skorts, Jumpers, Capri Length Pants, Shorts**

1. Colors: solid khaki, black, or navy
2. No blue jeans (denim material) are allowed (**see exception in *Other Uniform Requirements***).
3. Must be free of graphics and embroidery. With the exception of small labels, they may not have insignias, logos, words, or pictures.
4. Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers shall be modest and of sufficient length. (The length of these articles of clothing shall preferably be knee-length, but absolutely no shorter than the width of a \$1.00 bill from the knee when standing).
5. No pants or shorts with pockets halfway down the legs will be allowed.
6. Clothing must be appropriately sized. No baggy or sagging pants or shorts are allowed. No "low rise" clothing is allowed. Pants may not be worn with the waistband below the hipbone.
7. Clothing shall be worn appropriately (not inside-out or backwards; no rolled up pants legs, etc.)
8. Appropriate uniform shirts must be worn under all jumpers and sweaters

8. No see-through or mesh clothing that will reveal the body or will reveal undergarments shall be allowed.
9. Pants, etc. with belt loops will require a belt. Belts must be a plain black or brown belt with a plain belt buckle that is not oversized. All belts must be buckled.

C. Coats

Individual schools may make requirements for coats and coat storage.

D. Shoes/Footwear

1. Shoes/Footwear: All students shall wear shoes/footwear at all times. Students may wear sandals, provided they do not interfere with the safety and welfare of the student and meet the color requirement for shoes.
2. Shoes can be black, white, navy or brown (or a combination) in color.
3. Shoes shall be worn at all times, and, as needed, shoes shall conform to special requirements (such as P.E. classes, JROTC, science labs, etc).
4. Shoes that have laces shall be laced and tied as designed.
5. No bedroom shoes shall be allowed.
6. No flip flops (or flip flop-type sandals) shall be allowed (**see exception in *Other Uniform Requirements***).

E. Other Clothing Items or Accessories

1. No gang-related clothing, accessories, symbols or intimidating manner of dress, as identified by local law enforcement agencies, are allowed.
2. No headwear and no sunglasses shall be worn inside school buildings.
3. No bandanas or du-rags shall be allowed.

F. Other Uniform Requirements

1. Students are expected to be dressed according to the uniform standards at all times when school is in session.
2. Students who are taking classes that require a special dress code (such as JROTC) may wear that uniform to other classes. Students with a documented physical disability may request a waiver.
3. Students will be allowed to “dress up” for the following activities; however, if they do not participate in the “dress up” activity, the approved school uniform dress will be required: Homecoming week, spirit week, other special occasions deemed appropriate by the principal.

4. Principals may allow exceptions to the uniform rule (not the dress code) one Friday each month for a specific grade level, class, or the entire student body, as a reward for good behavior, good grades, or other positive promotions (example: Flip Flop Friday, school-sponsored T-shirt Friday, blue-jean Friday etc.). Student must wear the school-assigned badge to indicate permission has been granted from school officials to wear non-uniform clothing.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED TO BE WORN BY STUDENTS

- Wind pants/Sweatpants (allowed as part of PE uniform)
- Velour pants and tops
- Over-sized or ripped clothing
- Excessively tight clothing
- Overalls
- Bellbottoms
- Sleeveless tops/overcoats
- Un-hemmed clothing
- Hooded sweatshirts
- Trench coats
- Bicycle shorts
- Leggings/stretch knit
- Carpenter's pants
- Denim or jean fabric,
- Clothing with slashes
- Flip Flops/Flip Flop type sandal
- Other clothing deemed inappropriate by the principal

Note:

*Any student's dress or personal appearance that the administration believes is disruptive or interferes with a safe and secure learning environment will be dealt with on an individual basis. School administrators will use their discretion to determine the appropriateness of student's dress.

ENFORCEMENT

Revocation of Shorts/Skirts/Skorts Privilege for Excessive Violations

If the principal determines that too many students have abused the shorts/skirt/skorts requirement the principal may revoke the shorts privilege at that particular school so that the entire student body will no longer be allowed to wear shorts/skirts, etc. to school for a specified period of time. The principal shall have sufficient documentation regarding uniform non-compliance. In such cases, the principal may elect to prohibit the wearing of shorts at that particular school during subsequent semesters or school years or reinstate the privilege of wearing shorts to school as the principal, in consultation with the faculty, may deem appropriate. Additionally, the principal may revoke the shorts privilege of any student who violates, twice in one semester, the provisions of the shorts requirements.

Students new to Lanett City Schools will be given a two week (10 school days) grace period from enrollment, to obtain and wear the proper school uniforms.

Appropriate disciplinary actions for violations shall include the following:

First Offense:

Call parent(s) to pick up student or to bring a change of clothes – (unexcused absence)
Parent Conference with administrator or designee
Isolation until the above happens

Second Offense:

Call parent(s) to bring a change of clothes
Parent Conference with administrator or designee
In-school suspension or
Saturday school assignment

Third (and additional) Offenses:

Call parent(s)
Saturday school assignment, ISS or
Out of school suspension (truant)

***Excessive absences due to dress code infractions (including a trip home to change clothing) will result in truancy hearings and juvenile court referrals.**