

# READING SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: DRESS AND GROOMING

ADOPTED: May 3, 2004

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Authority SC 1317.3</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">221. DRESS AND GROOMING</p> <p>In order to support an atmosphere of high academic standards and safe schools, all schools in the Reading School District shall implement, for grades 1-12, the mandatory dress code set forth in this policy.</p> <p>The Board has the authority to require students to wear standard dress or uniforms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRESS CODE FOR GRADES 1 TO 8</p> <p><u>Boys</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tops – Blue, black, red or white solid color polo shirts, turtlenecks, or dress shirts (long or short sleeves). Solid blue, black, white or red sweaters.</li> <li>2. Bottoms – Khaki or navy blue dress pants or shorts. (No denim, cargo, sweatpants, nylon, low riding pants of any kind or baggies. No pants that are torn as a fashion statement. No shorts may be higher than three (3) inches above the knee.)</li> <li>3. Socks – Blue, black, brown or white socks.</li> <li>4. Shoes – Black, brown or white shoes, boots or sneakers. (If laced, laces of the same color as the shoe. No steel-toe work boots of any kind.)</li> <li>5. Belts – Navy blue, black or brown. (Must be worn on pants with belt loops.)</li> <li>6. All clothing must be sized appropriately.</li> </ol> <p><u>Girls</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tops – Blue, black, red or white solid color polo shirts, turtlenecks or blouses (long or short sleeves). Solid blue, black, white or red sweaters.</li> </ol>
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<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Bottoms – Khaki or navy blue dress pants, shorts, skorts, jumpers or dresses. (No shorts, skorts, jumpers or dresses may be worn higher than three (3) inches above the knee. No denim, cargo, sweatpants, nylon, low riding pants of any kind or baggies. No pants that are torn as a fashion statement.)</li> <li>3. Socks – Blue, black, brown or white socks, tights or pantyhose. Natural shades of pantyhose are acceptable.</li> <li>4. Shoes – Black, brown or white shoes, boots or sneakers. (If laced, laces of the same color as the shoe. No steel-toe work boots of any kind.)</li> <li>5. Belts – Navy blue, black or brown. (Must be worn on pants with belt loops).</li> <li>6. All clothing must be sized appropriately.</li> </ol> <p>Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technical education, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student. Elementary students may wear navy blue sweatpants on days of scheduled physical education classes.</p> <p>Schools may waive the dress code for school-wide activities such as dress-down Friday, play day, etc., but no more frequently than two (2) days in any month.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DRESS CODE FOR GRADES 9 TO 12</b></p> <p>The administration will make the determination if any article of clothing interferes with the instructional process in the classroom setting or within the confines of the school.</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.11</p>	<p>Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, shops, extracurricular activities or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.</p> <p><u>Dress Code To Be Followed By All RHS Students</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Logos focusing on the use of drugs or showing drug images, cigarette advertisements, alcohol advertisements, sexual comments, violent words or images, or racial slurs on any article of clothing are not allowed.</li> <li>2. Clothing must be sized appropriately. Clothes must fit, and pants must be worn around the waist.</li> </ol>

3. No pajamas or bedroom slippers.
4. No visible undergarments.
5. No tank tops.
6. No bare midriffs.
7. No torn clothes.
8. At no time during the school day will coats be worn in class.
9. Headwear is not allowed to be worn in the building.

Schools may waive the dress code for designated school-wide activities.

#### Information Dissemination

The school district and school staffs have the responsibility to adequately inform parents/guardians and students of the district policy. District administrators will help facilitate where feasible.

The district and the schools will communicate through newsletters, flyers, parent/guardian meetings, PFO meetings, parent advisory meetings, community support agencies, television, radio, and newspapers. Every effort will be made to publicize the policy in as many venues as possible, as often as possible.

#### Financial Considerations

No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized or subject to any discipline measure for failure to comply with the dress code by reason of financial hardship.

The district shall seek the support of all local clothing retailers to secure cost saving measures for all Reading students. The district and community and parent/guardian liaison staff shall develop and maintain a list of resources. In addition, each school will work with local community service agencies, churches and business partners to secure supplies of clothing and sponsors for assisting families.

It is suggested that schools, through their parent organizations and/or parent coordinators sponsor a uniform swap program after the implementation year to provide parents/guardians with inexpensive, local means of re-cycling out-grown uniforms.

Compliance Measures

Each school shall develop incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with the Reading School District Dress Code. Each school should strive to achieve full compliance through positive means and resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures fail to ensure compliance. In addition, schools shall communicate with parents/guardians so that expectations and benefits are fully understood by students and their families.

Disciplinary action should only be taken as a last resort to encourage compliance with the policy. Prior to initiating any disciplinary actions against a student not complying with the policy, a conference must be held with the parent/guardian and an administrator or designee to solicit parental cooperation and support.

Disciplinary action is to be initiated only after all other means to secure support and cooperation have not succeeded. A progressive discipline system is to be employed by the school staff to encourage full and consistent compliance with the least amount of disciplinary action.

No student should be considered noncompliant with the policy under the following conditions:

1. When noncompliance derives from financial hardship.
2. When a student wears a button, armband or other accouterment to exercise the right to freedom of expression, unless the accouterment signifies or is related to membership in any unauthorized organization, club, or group.
3. When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts, or JROTC on regular meeting days.
4. When complying with the dress code violates a student's sincerely held religious belief.
5. When a student's parent/guardian has officially secured an exemption from the dress code.

Exemptions

Parents/Guardians desiring to exempt their children from the Reading School District Dress Code must observe the following procedures:

1. Request by mail or in person an Exemptions from Dress Code Program form. The parent/guardian may obtain an exemption request from the student's school.
2. Complete the exemption request form in full and submit it to the designated administrator at the student's school.
3. Meet with the designated administrator to discuss the dress code and the nature of the parent's/guardian's objections to the policy. The purposes of this meeting are to ensure that the parent/guardian understands the reasons for, and the goals of, the dress code; to verify the accuracy of the information and the exemption request form; and to prevent fraud or misrepresentation.
4. For purposes of consistent administration of the dress code, meet with a designated district administrator to discuss the nature of the parent/guardian's objections to the policy.

Annual Evaluation

All schools will participate in an evaluation at the end of the school year for the first two (2) years of the program. Thereafter, the evaluation may be scheduled as part of the regular review process for the dress and discipline code.

The district shall design an evaluation for district-wide use. Each school shall complete an evaluation by May 1 of each year. The schools and the district shall review the results and shall consider modifications to the policy as necessary.

Refusal To Conform To School Dress Code

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| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Principal or designee sends letter home to parents/guardians.</li><li>2. Parents/Guardians immediately notified of the problem by telephone.</li><li>3. Conference held with parent/guardian.</li></ol> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Repeat procedure as listed in 1<sup>st</sup> Offense.</li><li>2. Parent/Guardian brings in appropriate clothing.</li></ol>  |

