ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE - BOE POLICY JCDB

DRESS CODE PHILOSOPHY

The Olathe Public Schools' high school dress code is designed to ensure the **health and safety** of students, while preserving the basic rights of individuals. It is our responsibility to strive for a learning atmosphere to prepare students for *their* future. The dress code puts focus on academics and allows students to express themselves through personality and individual achievement. Dressing appropriately creates a sense of school pride and belonging as well as reducing discipline issues and disruptions. To assist our students and their parents, the district has established the following dress code.

DRESS CODE

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be always covered for all students.
Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, and chest are covered with opaque fabric. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear*, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), AND
- Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress, or shorts), AND
- Shoes with soles.

3. Classes that include attire as part of the curriculum or as a safety requirement (i.e., public speaking; job readiness, science classes, athletic shoes for PE, etc.) may include assignment-specific dress.

3. **Students May Wear**, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- Hats - must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff. In the classroom, teachers have the discretion to ask students to remove hats (i.e., during exams).

- Religious headwear.
- Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood overhead is allowed, but the face and ears must be visible to school staff).
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and “skinny jeans”.
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear are not exposed.
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps, halter tops, one strap shirts.
- Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing (as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Section 1 above).

4. Students <u>Cannot</u> Wear:

- Images or language depicting/suggesting/promoting violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting/promoting drugs, alcohol, vaping, or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- Bullet proof vest, body armor, tactical gear, or facsimile.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting/promoting hate speech, profanity, pornography, or that have traditional images or symbols of hate or intolerance.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting/promoting images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment for any student.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed).
- Swimsuits and/or strapless shirts (except as required in class or athletic practice).
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance or as personal protective equipment).

- Disruptive or offensive costumes and costume masks.

- Flags, blankets, towels, capes as clothing accessories.

- Clothing that is determined to be gang-related.

5. Dress Code Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.

- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms because of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 4 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided three (3) options to be dressed more to code during the school day:
  - Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.

  - If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.

  - School staff may provide an alternative item of clothing, if available, to wear for the remainder of the day

- No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.

- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
  - Kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;
  - Measuring straps or skirt length;
  - Asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others;
  - Calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others.
  - Accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing.

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days. Exceptions may be made, with administrative discretion, for special events during the school day (ie. spirit days) or school events that occur after school hours.