

The Meriden Board of Education takes pride in the appearance of our students. Students are expected to wear attire that is not disruptive to the education process and is not dangerous or unsafe. Students should always come to school neat and clean. The dress of a student reflects the level of respect for oneself, respect for one's peers and respect for one's school.

The Meriden Board of Education, school administrators, faculty and staff will enforce the following guidelines as the Student Dress Code in the Meriden Public School System:

- a. Headgear - All headgear, which includes, but is not limited to, hats, caps, hoods, bandanas, bandana headbands, wave caps, doo-rags, sweatbands, visors, kerchiefs, and headbands, are prohibited, must be kept out of sight in the building and must be placed in the student's locker or classroom closet immediately upon entering the school and should remain there for the entire school day. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck or kept in the classroom during regular school hours. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief shall not be prohibited under this policy.
- b. Blouses/Shirts - Blouses/shirts should be constructed so that the tops of the shoulders are covered by at least one (1) inch-wide straps on the elementary school level and two (2) inch-wide straps on the middle and high school levels (no halter/off the shoulder tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps or bare shoulders of any type will be allowed). Blouses/shirts that allow exposure of any portion of the waist, hips, midriff or inappropriate exposure of the chest and/or breasts are not allowed. Blouses/shirts should not be form fitting either by fabric, cut, and/or design. This will mean that undergarments and/or private body areas must not be evident or visible through clothing. Rips or holes that expose skin and see-through shirts are not acceptable. Undergarments may not be worn as outerwear.
- c. Skirts/Shorts/Dresses/Pants - Skirts, shorts and dresses should have hemlines that are not more than four (4) inches above the top of the knee cap. Pants should be of a length so as not to be a danger to yourself or others walking near you. Pants should be worn close to the waist and belted or should fit well enough to stay at the waist, preventing exposure of undergarments. Skirts/Shorts/Dresses/Pants should not be form fitting either by fabric, cut, and/or design. This will mean that undergarments and/or private body areas must not be evident or visible through clothing. Rips or holes that expose undergarments or that are located more than four (4) inches above the top of the knee cap are not acceptable. Undergarments may not be worn as outerwear.
- d. Outdoor Garments - All outdoor garments, which include, but are not limited to, hats, coats, gloves and winter scarves, must be placed in the student's locker or classroom closet immediately upon entering the school and should remain there for the entire school day.
- e. Shoes - Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear must be fastened to the foot over the top of the foot as well as the heel or around the ankle. Footwear with excessive heels is not allowed. Footwear, such as but not limited to, flip flops, clogs, and slip-on sport sandals will not be permitted. Footwear which mars floors or is a safety hazard will not be permitted. Exceptions to the shoe policy may be made according to Physical Education curriculum requirements as allowed by the administration.
- f. Lounging Attire - Pajamas, slippers and all other lounging attire is not allowed.

- g. Prints - No student clothing or accessories: shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict profanity, violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, hate groups, gang affiliation or illegal activity, expressed or implied; shall contain vulgarity or overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures, which are likely to disrupt the educational environment; or that provokes others to act violently or causes others to be intimidated by fear of violence; or that contain "fighting words."
- h. Accessories - Students may not wear or possess articles of clothing or clothing accessories that could cause injury to others or are disruptive to the education process. This includes, but is not limited to, sunglasses, chains, cleats, spikes or studs.
- i. Students are not allowed to display clothing or symbols that have been identified by agencies, such as, but not limited to, the Meriden Police Department, as being commonly associated with gangs. Garments, jewelry, body art and tattoos that communicate gang allegiance or affiliation are not allowed to be worn or visible at school.

Exceptions to the above dress code will be considered for medical reasons, special events, and cultural beliefs or to promote school spirit as determined by the school principal or his/her designee. Students and/or sponsors wishing to request special exceptions must have permission from the school administration prior to the activity.

Students who are not in compliance with the dress code policy will be given an opportunity to comply. Any student who refuses to comply or who repeatedly needs redirection and/or fails to comply with the policy and regulations concerning student dress will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion in accordance with the Board's policy on student discipline.

Approved: April 28, 1981

Amended: December 14, 2004

Amended: September 6, 2005

Amended: April 3, 2012

Amended: August 19, 2014

Amended: July 18, 2017

Previous Policy Number: IC2.1

Previous Policy Number: 5132