

# Coweta County Schools (revised July 14, 2008)

## 2008-09 Dress Code Guidelines

Each Coweta County school is responsible for setting and enforcing a dress code for students. **The school's principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine if a student's attire or grooming meets reasonable and appropriate guidelines.**

Parents and students should consult their school's guide or call the principal for information regarding specific dress code requirements in their school. However, the following standards are generally common to each school:

**Book Bags:** Coweta County Schools no longer require clear or mesh book bags. Coweta County Schools generally discourage or prohibit rolling book bags. Please check with your school before purchasing a book bag if you have a question about what is allowable.

### Elementary School Dress Standards

Students should wear clothing that is clean and suitable for school activities, keeping in mind weather conditions and good taste. Shoes must be worn at all times. Pants are to be worn at the waist and fastened securely.

#### **The following are not to be worn at school:**

- Halter-tops, tank tops, fishnet tops and midriff blouses.
- Excessively large or baggy clothing.
- Tops and dresses with spaghetti straps.
- Muscle shirts.
- Shirts that advertise alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- Short shorts and skirts (Your index finger should touch the hem of the shorts).
- Shorts covered by a full-length shirt.
- Bicycle pants or shorts.
- Clothing with open holes above the knee.
- Clothing that is suggestive, advocates disobedience to society or causes a possible disruption to the school.
- Clothing or attire with statements or symbols which might be deemed offensive to others, violent or of a threatening nature.
- Shoes with cleats and/or wheels (heelys).
- Hardware chains.
- Caps, hats, visors, any other headgear, and sunglasses.

### Middle School Dress Standards

In the interest of having a safe, orderly school, which minimizes distractions and maximizes the learning environment, a dress code has been established for all middle school students in the Coweta County School System. Every middle school student is expected to dress and be groomed in accordance with acceptable standards of cleanliness and modesty. Students may

wear dresses, blouses, shirts, or any other types of clothing appropriate to the sex of the individual that does not violate the intent of the dress code.

The dress standard is as follows:

- If a student chooses to wear shorts or a skirt, the shorts or skirt must be of appropriate length. The appropriate measurement will be determined when the student is standing erect, hands by his/her side, fingertips not extending below the hem of the clothing, maintaining modesty at all times. Biker shorts, spandex apparel, excessively form fitting shirts, shorts, pants, or skirts are not allowed.
- All shirts, blouses, and dresses must have sleeves. Shirts and blouses must not be excessively long and should not be a safety concern or a disruption. If a shirt is too long, it must be tucked. Clothing should not expose areas of stomach, side, or back. Oversized clothing is not allowed.
- Pants must be appropriately sized for width and hemmed to a safe length. Underwear should not be visible. Pant size should not hinder ability to move about easily and safely. Pants must be fastened securely at the waist. Pants may not have holes or the appearance of holes above the knees. Overalls or coveralls must be worn properly.
- No items of clothing are allowed that may be affiliated with gang activity, as defined by administration and law enforcement.
- No “hardware chains” may be worn as belts, wallet chains, or jewelry. No chains of this type are allowed on school campus or at any school function. No hats, bandanas, or headbands may be worn or displayed during the instructional day.
- No items may be worn with inappropriate pictures, symbols, or lettering. This includes but is not limited to depictions of alcohol, drugs, or weapons. Statements that might be deemed offensive to others are prohibited. No writing is allowed on the seat of pants or skirts.
- Pajamas and/or house shoes or slippers may not be worn to school.
- Shoes with wheels may not be worn to school. Other shoes that may present a safety hazard should not be worn.
- In an effort to address concerns for student safety and welfare, to create a learning environment with minimal distractions, and to reinforce the values of modesty and civility, the administration will be responsible for enforcing this dress code fairly and reasonably. Violations are determined at the discretion of the administration. If students are in violation of the dress code, they will be given the opportunity to correct the violation. If they fail to correct the violation, they may be asked to call home for appropriate clothing and/or may receive disciplinary consequences as determined by the administrative staff.

### **High School Dress Standards**

Everyone in Coweta County high schools is expected to dress and be groomed in accordance with acceptable standards of cleanliness, good taste, and appropriateness. The established standard has been set to discourage clothing that may be a distraction to the learning environment and possible safety of students. It is not our intent to thwart self-expression or exercise unreasonable control over students; however, current trends seem to favor certain modes of dress which are inappropriate for school, causing distractions to the learning environment, and sometimes putting the students in situations not best for them.

The dress standard is as follows:

- All shirts and dresses must have sleeves. Tank tops, tube tops, and shirts without sleeves are not acceptable.

- Students will be permitted to wear shorts, dresses, and skirts, provided they reach the end of the fingertips or longer. (Splits in skirts/dresses/shorts must be below the fingertips.) Mini-skirts, mini-dresses, and short shorts are not permitted.
- Overalls may be worn with both straps fastened and on the shoulders. A shirt must be worn under overalls.
- Pants must be worn properly at the hips.
- Chains or sharp objects are not permitted.
- Low cut, see through, strapless, or backless dresses/shirts may not be worn.
- No student should dress in such a way that his/her underwear is partially or totally exposed. The waist and top portions of boxer shorts and briefs, bra straps and bra sides should not show.
- No student may wear any jewelry, clothing, or carry backpacks which display or suggest alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weaponry, profanity, vulgarity, sexual innuendo, or scatological humor.
- No student may wear any jewelry, clothing, or carry backpacks which display or suggest anything inflammatory or degrading to a particular race, creed, or culture.
- No student will wear camouflage outfits.
- No student will wear trench coats.
- No student may wear clothes with holes above the knees, in the crotch, or under the buttocks.
- Hats, headbands, bandannas, sunglasses, stocking caps, hoods, picks/combs, and other headgear are not permitted.
- Blouses, dresses, or skirts which expose the areas of the stomach, side, or back are not permitted.
- Excessively form-fitting or loose-fitting clothing is not permitted.
- Any clothing/jewelry or improperly worn clothing deemed gang related by the administration will not be permitted.