

## STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE

### **Dress Code Rationale, Beliefs and Benefits**

Iowa law provides that the students, the instructional staff and the administrative staff of Iowa's public schools have the right to be safe and secure at school.

The Waterloo Community School District Board of Directors has determined that a mandatory (standardized) dress code is necessary for all elementary, middle, and high school students to ensure that they attend school in a very positive and safe educational environment and to reinforce the District's mission that *each and every student graduate prepared for college, career, and citizenship*. The board believes that any apparel worn at school that draws attention away from the school's learning environment should be prohibited.

The board believes that the health and safety of the students and staff are of paramount concern and that any apparel that might jeopardize student or staff health and safety should be prohibited.

Finally, the board believes that a standardized dress code helps to prepare students for their futures through:

- Focusing on instruction and creating a learning mindset
- Going to school in an environment of modesty/decency
- Keeping them personally safe by providing a high level of school security
- Developing a sense of school pride, belonging, and unity
- Symbolizing uniqueness as a district

### **Pants / Skirts / Dresses / Bottoms**

The following pants/skirts/dresses/bottoms may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Any type of sweat pants/athletic uniform bottoms/shorts or similar
- Bottoms that are form-fitting to the body
- Yoga Pants, skateboard pants, stirrup pants, or similar
- Any type of jeans or overalls
- Any bottoms with prints, patterns, embroidery, colored trim, words, symbols, decoration or similar
- Bottoms with excess/nonfunctional buttons
- Bottoms with beads, extra zippers, things hanging off the clothing, chains, large brand tags, or similar
- Bottoms whose length is above the knee
- Pajamas or other clothing meant to be worn as sleepwear
- Bottoms not solid in color
- Bottoms with holes, rips, or voids
- Bottoms that permit undergarments to be visible
- Bottoms that are revealing or undersized (too tight)
- Bottoms whose waist is worn more than one inch below the natural waistline
- Bottoms that have belt loops that are worn without a belt in grades 6-12

- Bottoms that are sheer or see-through
- Bottoms that drag on the floor

### **Shirts / Tops / Dresses**

The following shirts / tops (tops) may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Tops that have embroidery, prints, words, symbols, or decorations, or similar in accordance with logo constraints (logos larger than 2" [height and width] except for Waterloo school-specific logos)
- Tops that have excess buttons, extra zippers, things hanging off the clothing, colored trim, or similar
- Tops that are without collars unless Waterloo Schools specific
- Tops that are sleeveless or capped-sleeved
- Tops that are school athletic or activity apparel (except by members of recognized school groups on designated days)
- Tops that are halters, tanks, tubes, bare midriff, spaghetti strapped, backless, and/or off-the shoulder tops, or similar
- Tops that are revealing
- Tops that have holes, rips, or voids
- Tops that allow undergarments to be visible
- Tops that are tight or too loose (Plus or minus more than one size)
- Tops that have a logo larger than 2" (whose height or width is more than 2") except for Waterloo school-specific logos
- Tops that are sheer or see-through
- Tops that are frayed

### **Footwear**

It is not permissible to go without shoes except while participating in a school activity such as swimming or gymnastics where shoes are not appropriate. The following footwear may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Sandals or similar
- Flip Flops or similar
- Open-Toed shoes
- Shoes with heels above two inches
- Slippers or house shoes/house boots, or similar
- Shoes with fabric soles
- Any shoe not meant for outdoor wear
- Wheelie/Heely shoes (shoes with skates in the bottom) or similar
- Any shoe with a spiked heel

### **Head Wear**

The following head wear may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Hats, hood part of the hoodie, visors, caps, bandanas, hairnets, scarves, or similar, as well as items that are distracting or pose a safety hazard (ex. Birthday hats/crowns/holiday headwear)
- Sunglasses, unless prescribed by a physician for indoor use

### **Belts**

The following belts may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Belts with buckles whose height is more than the approximate height of the belt
- Belts with excessive metal (more metal than is necessary for the functioning of the belt)
- Chains or chain belts
- Belts with studs (i.e. metal or rhinestones or similar)
- Belts with any type of protruding object
- Belts with words or graphics that are disruptive, distracting, or offensive, in language or symbols in grades PK-5.
- Belts with words or graphics in grades 6-12.
- Belts with excess buttons, extra zippers, things extra hanging off the belt, or similar object(s)

### **Jackets / Sweaters / Vests / Sweatshirts / Outdoor Weight Scarves / Gloves**

Certain outer-wear apparel is not permitted in classrooms, hallways, or common areas other than passage to and from the student's locker or coat room upon arrival to or departure from the main building. The following lighter weight jackets, fleeces, sweaters, vests, and sweatshirts may not be worn in the Waterloo Community School District classrooms, hallways, or common areas during the school day:

- Those with pattern, embroidery, decoration, words, graphics, printed design, or similar in accordance with logo constraints (logos larger than 2" [height and width] except for Waterloo school-specific logos)
- Those with excess buttons, extra zippers, things hanging off the clothing, or similar extras
- Garments with holes, rips, or voids
- Garments that are fringed
- Jackets/sweaters/sweatshirts/fleeces without a collared shirt underneath (unless the garment is Waterloo Schools specific)
- Items with logos larger than 2" in width or length, except Waterloo Schools specific logo apparel

### **Layered Clothing**

The following clothing, usually worn as a layer with other clothing, may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Any t-shirts (unless Waterloo Schools specific), camies, or tanks, unless with approved tops (the combination may not be collarless)
- Those with any printed design, words, or symbols

### **Leggings/Tights**

The following may not be worn in the Waterloo Community Schools:

- Leggings worn as pants without additional bottom/top at knee length in PK-grade 5

- Leggings or footless tights in grades 6-12
- Any tights, pantyhose, or nylons that are not neutral-colored or that are of one of the prohibited bottom colors: any shade of medium or light blue, green, yellow, red, orange, purple, or white, in grades 6-12
- Tights of fishnet fabric
- Tights with any patterns, stripes, plaids, designs, words, or symbols in grades 6-12

### **Accessories**

The following accessories may not be worn in the Waterloo Schools

- Bandanas or visible handkerchiefs
- Jewelry that could be used as a weapon
- Excessive jewelry (jewelry that is distracting or poses a safety hazard)

### **Other**

It is not permissible to wear any item that may be used as a weapon, including, but not limited to, steel-toed shoes/boots, chains, items with spikes or studs, and other items deemed inappropriate by the principal.

### **Implementation**

This policy applies to all elementary, middle and high school students and was implemented District-wide beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

### **Exceptions**

Exceptions to the Dress Code will be made for students with religious beliefs, JROTC uniforms, or health conditions that require accommodations.

### **Regulation**

The superintendent will develop regulations to implement this policy.

### **Savings Clause**

In the event that any administrative or judicial body declares any portion of this policy or any attending regulation illegal, the remaining portion of this policy or attending regulation not declared illegal shall remain in full force and effect without further action by the District.

Legal Ref.: *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
*Bethal School District v. Fraser*, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).  
*Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Comm. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).  
*Bystrom v. Fridley High School*, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).  
*Torvik v. Decorah Community School*, 453 F.2d 779 (8th Cir. 1972).  
*Turley v. Adel Community School District*, 322 F.Supp. 402 (S.D. Iowa 1971).  
*Sims v. Colfax Comm. School Dist.*, 307 F.Supp. 485 (Iowa 1970). Iowa Code § 279.8

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