Standardized Dress Code FAQ

Updated 6/2014

1. When did the standardized dress code go into effect?
   A. The district-wide dress code went into effect on January 3, 2010 for the 2011-2012 school year.

2. Are belts required to be worn?
   A. Students in grades PreK-2 are not required to wear a belt. Students in grades 3-12 must wear a belt if they have belt loops on the garment.

3. Can students wear any color belt?
   A. Yes, any plain, solid color belt, without excessive metal can be worn in the middle or high school. PreK-5 students can wear belts with graphics so long as they are not offensive.

4. Are rivets allowed on bottoms?
   A. Yes, as long as bottoms being worn follow the dress code guidelines.

5. Can bottoms be worn that have any rips, voids, holes, or tears?
   A. No.

6. Are t-shirts or camis allowed?
   A. Yes, in approved colors and underneath approved tops. The combination may not be collarless.

7. Are jeggings and/or leggings of any kind allowed?
   A. Jeggings are not allowed at elementary or secondary level. Leggings are allowed at the elementary level, as long as the dress, skirt, or shorts meet to the knees of the student. Leggings are not allowed at the secondary level.

8. Can any athletic apparel be worn for bottoms?
   A. No, sweat pants, yoga pants, and/or athletic uniform bottoms cannot be worn.

9. Is there a dress code for staff?
   A. Yes, a staff dress code was developed with input from various employee groups and can be found on our website. [http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/hrs/employee-dress-code/](http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/hrs/employee-dress-code/)

10. What happens if a student doesn’t follow the dress code?
A. Please see Standardized Dress Code Regulation 504.2-R for details regarding out of dress code discipline actions. http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/policies/policies/1770

11. Are jeans of any color allowed?

12. What if my child has a disability that requires special clothing?
   A. Exceptions to the dress code will be made for students with Individualized Education Plans, religious beliefs, JROTC uniform requirements, or health conditions that require accommodations. An exemption request must be submitted in writing to the building administrator. Appeals may be made to the Executive Director of Student and At-Risk Services. See also the Exceptions section in the Standardized Dress Code Policy Regulation 504.2-R. http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/policies/policies/1770

13. Will there be assistance for parents who can’t afford approved clothing?
   A. Schools will maintain a clothes closet with a range of sizes, complying with their building rules and District Dress Code policy.

14. Does this policy affect Carver and Cunningham’s current dress code?
   A. Yes, Carver and Cunningham with input from their parent teacher organizations have adopted the district wide dress code. Please note that building administrators may opt to be more restricted than the District Standardized Dress Code Policy.

15. Are capris acceptable in the policy?
   A. Yes, as long as they aren’t form fitting and the hem meets the knee. They must also follow the other dress code requirements of no stripes, checks, or plaid, embroidery, decoration, etc. They can’t be made of knit material, brand tags, strings, or be carpenter style.

16. Are other shirt colors available besides blue, black, white, or navy shirts?
   A. Yes, other color options are allowed. Any solid color can be worn at all schools.

17. Will there be a length requirement for skirts, shorts, and pants?
   A. Yes, the length requirement for shorts, skirts, and rompers is to the top of the knee.

18. Can other styles of dresses be worn if they adhere to the color and length in the policy? Such as solid color polo style dresses or shirt type dresses?
   A. Yes. The dress must be solid in color, have sleeves, a collar, and meet the top of the knee.

19. Is the district going to give me a clothing allowance to purchase new clothing for my kids?
A. No, but assistance will be available for families through clothing closets where uniforms can be exchanged. Schools will maintain a clothes closet with a range of sizes, complying with their building rules and District Dress Code policy.

20. Why do shirts have to be tucked in?
   A. Shirts will be required to be tucked in for a neater appearance and to reduce the likelihood of unapproved items being brought into the building.

21. What size of a logo can be on polo shirts?
   A. Small logo less than 1” is acceptable.

22. Are pockets on polo shirts acceptable?
   A. Yes, pockets on shirts are acceptable as long as there isn’t a design or the logo is not larger than 1”.

23. Are mandarin collars acceptable on shirts?
   A. Yes, mandarin collars are acceptable.

24. Will students be required to follow the dress code on picture day?
   A. **Elementary and Middle School Only.** School pictures are taken at two different times. One in the Fall and one in the Spring. The guidelines will be as follows: Fall Picture Day, students MUST be in dress code attire.

   Spring Picture Day, students will be allowed to wear dress up clothing or be in District dress code. Guidelines for Dress up will still be: No jeans, bottoms must be at least knee length, no form fitting or revealing clothing, no flip flops, etc. **High School students will be required to remain in dress code.** Schools may opt to be more restrictive. Please check with your child’s school for details.

25. Will students have to comply with the dress code at extracurricular activities?
   A. No, students do not have to comply with the dress code after school hours.

26. Are purses and backpacks of any color allowed?
   A. Yes, as long as students store purses and backpacks in their lockers if they are in elementary or middle school. Please see Regulation 504.3R.
   
   http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/policies/policies/1700

27. Are hoods on coats acceptable?
   A. Yes, as long as they are stored in the student’s locker during the school day. Hooded sweatshirts or clothing with hoods can NOT be worn during the school day.

28. Are shoes of any color allowed?
   A. Yes.
29. Are necklaces, scarves, bracelets, and earrings allowed?
   A. Yes, but bandanas are not allowed. Scarves are allowed as an accessory, but not as head wear. Bracelets and earrings are allowed as long as they are not a distraction.

30. Are Columbia fleece jackets allowed with the new dress code?
   A. Yes, Columbia Fleece and the word Columbia are acceptable within the dress code.

31. Can students wear football, basketball, and cheerleading uniforms on game days?
   A. Yes, students can wear their game jerseys as long as they have a collared shirt under the jersey. Students have to follow the dress code for their bottoms, no warm up pants, cheerleading skirts, or sweats are allowed.

32. Are color logos on polos ok?
   A. Yes, as long as the polo follows policy and logo is no larger than 1”.

33. Are straight leg pants acceptable?
   A. Yes, as long as pants follow the policy. Skinny pants and Jeggings are not acceptable.

34. What color socks can be worn?
   A. Guidelines must follow the dress code chart the same as tights, panty hose, or nylons.

* Please note that building administrators can opt to be more restrictive than the District dress code. Please check with your child’s school for any additional restrictions.

To submit a FAQ, please email hemannk@waterlooschools.org. Thank you.