

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE JFC-J (7/14)

Dress Code Policy for Students

TO: All Principals, Administrators, and Supervisory Staff

FROM: Dr. Carol S. Fenn, Division Superintendent

DATE: July 1, 2014

Rockingham County Public Schools follow Dress Code Policy JFC, adopted by the Rockingham County School Board on May 27, 2014. Pursuant to that Policy, the Superintendent issues the following Administrative Directive for the implementation of that Policy:

The Dress Code Policy provides certain examples of dress or attire which are unacceptable under the terms of the Policy. The following dress or attire is prohibited by the Dress Code:

- 1) Clothing which exposes undergarments;
- 2) See-through apparel;
- 3) Clothing that exposes the midriff, lower back, cleavage, or bare chest;
- 4) Strapless tops or tops with spaghetti straps;
- 5) Dresses, skirts, pants, or shorts that are shorter than the student's mid-thigh;
- 6) Hats, hoods, or head coverings inside the school building, unless they are required for religious or medical reasons;
- 7) Sunglasses or other obscuring glasses inside the school building, unless they are required for medical reasons;
- 8) Spiked accessories or wallet chains;
- 9) Extremely tight pants worn without clothing which covers the student to mid-thigh, including, but not limited to: yoga pants, leggings, spandex shorts, compression shorts, "jeggings," or tights.
- 10) Jewelry, including facial or body piercings, that is actually or likely to be disruptive, distracting, or hazardous to the student or other students in the student's presence;
- 11) Dress that promotes, depicts, or in any way affirms, explicitly or implicitly, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or illegal activity, including gang activity;

- 12) Dress that promotes, depicts, threatens, or in any way affirms, explicitly or implicitly, violence, profanity, vulgarity, or sexually implicit or explicit messages; and,
- 13) Dress that promotes or depicts discriminatory messages or practices or that denigrates a particular group of people.

In addition to the specific dress and attire listed above, administrators may exercise their discretion to regulate any dress and attire that violates the Dress Code Policy because it actually does or foreseeably could: interfere with the educational process, cause disruption, including by undermining or distracting from the curriculum, threaten or cause harm, or jeopardize or damage school property. While the enforcement and determination of consequences for infractions of the policy remains solely with the school's administration, teachers and any school staff may initiate referrals as appropriate.

Each school's administration also has the discretion to make exceptions to the policy after school hours, for spirit days, for school visitors, or for other individualized circumstances. Athletic uniforms approved and purchased by the school for Virginia High School League participation are not subject to the dress code policy, but should reflect the nature of the sport and physical activity or movement within the sport.

The administrators of each school shall also have the discretion to determine the consequences of a student's violation of the Dress Code. Recommended dispositions provided to encourage uniformity are:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| First Offense: | Warning with requested change of clothes and notification to parent. |
| Second Offense: | One day of in-school suspension, lunch detention, or Saturday school and notification of parent. |
| Third Offense: | Three days of out-of-school suspension (with required notification to parent). |
| Fourth Offense: | Five days out-of-school suspension (with required notification to parent) |
| Fifth Offense: | Ten days of out-of-school suspension with recommendation to the Division Superintendent of Schools for regular school suspension for the remainder of the semester or school year (with required notification to parent), with the opportunity to continue academic studies in an alternative setting or arrangement, as may be available. |

The Superintendent has created a PowerPoint presentation that interprets the Dress Code Policy and Administrative Directive and that provides examples of dress and attire that are and are not appropriate under this Dress Code Policy and this Administrative Directive. This PowerPoint presentation, including the examples it contains, is incorporated into the Administrative Directive, and should also serve as a guide for students and parents about what is permissible under the Dress Code Policy. Additionally, a video is being created with RCPS students depicting appropriate school attire; it will be available September 2014.