

## STUDENT UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

The policy of the Jackson Parish School Board shall be that no mode of attire shall be considered proper for school wear that disrupts the classroom and/or the school's positive learning environment. In questions regarding student dress and grooming, the principal or his/her designee of each school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided.

The Jackson Parish School Board believes that a mandatory school uniform policy will provide a more secure school environment, promote an atmosphere for greater discipline, and increase learning opportunities for students by removing many of the distractions and connotations associated with various types of clothing. **All schools and grades in Jackson Parish will require uniforms and all students will be required to wear said uniforms.**

The first responsibility for maintaining proper uniform standards belongs to the student and parent(s) or guardian(s). Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children wear the designated school uniform clothing as outlined below. Any prohibited items of clothing will be taken by school officials and returned to the parent or guardian only.

### NOTIFICATION

The School Board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of the dress code specifications and their effective date.

If the School Board modifies the existing uniform policy, it shall notify in writing the parent or guardian of each student of the policy adoption or uniform policy modification at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy. Each school shall display any uniform selected for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective date for wearing of the uniform.

However, nothing shall prohibit the School Board from requiring a new or revised dress code or uniform policy without the required notice in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this policy, *emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

### BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A

firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

*Body armor* shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

### OVERALL APPEARANCE

Note: *Extreme* shall mean anything which distracts from learning

- At school students and clothing must be neat, clean, well-groomed in appearance with no bizarre style unsuitable for school activities, or which calls undue attention to the wearer.
- No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures.
- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted.
- Extreme style or fit of clothing is not permitted. No stretch fabric is allowed. (i.e. oversized, extremely tight fitting, or sagging)
- Students may choose backpacks of their choice as long as the backpacks have no foul language, pictures, or other inappropriate symbols.
- Non-prescription sunglasses may not be worn.
- No visible body pierce jewelry other than earrings for girls may be worn.
- Clothing may be not be raveled, un-hemmed, frayed, or have holes.
- Girls must wear bras.
- Undergarments must not be visible.

### Shirts:

Knit pullover-style shirts with collar or oxford shirt with collar (either must have buttons up to the collar with only the top button open) in **(1) solid white, (2) solid royal or navy blue, (3) black, and (4) one solid color chosen by the school. Only small pocket size logos shall be permitted. (Chosen color is red for Jonesboro Hodge High School, Jonesboro Hodge Middle School, Southside Elementary and Weston High School – Quitman’s chosen color is pale yellow.)** No sleeveless or half-sleeve shirts will be allowed. Shirts must be long enough so that when arms are raised to shoulder level, no part of the mid-section of the body will be exposed. Shirrtails may be worn tucked or untucked. Shirts may not be oversized. School spirit shirts may be worn every day for clubs and sports, including hoodies and t-shirts.

### Pants, Shorts, Skirts, and Dresses:

Long pants (khaki or corduroy), shorts, jumpers, skirts, dresses, skorts, or capris in standard khaki, black, or navy color is required in uniform style/brand with no cargo

pockets, or flared legs. Only small pocket size logos shall be permitted. Jeans may be worn in denim and school colors. No skinny jeans shall be permitted. Pants must be worn at the waistline level. No sagging pants shall be permitted. Shorts, skirts, jumpers, skorts, or dresses must measure 4" or less from the floor when kneeling.

Belts:

Uniform pants may be worn with or without belts. When worn, belts shall be worn inside the loops on all pants designed with belt loops (loops can't be cut off) and may not be more than one size larger than the waist (may not hang below belt level). Belts should be uniform color, black, or brown. Belts should not have any emblems or logos nor be oversized. Belt buckles may not have emblems or logos.

Socks:

Socks or hose of any color with no visible logo shall be worn with all shoes.

Shoes:

Shoes should be comfortable, conservative, and properly laced where applicable. No flip flops, thongs, beach or house shoes are permitted. No toe shoes are permitted.

Head Gear:

Only knit hats or caps in school colors may be worn **outside** in cold (50 degrees or below) weather. No hats, du/doo rags, bandanas, curlers, or other head gear may be worn inside or outside or carried.

T-Shirts (undershirts):

T-shirts of any color may be worn underneath uniform shirts but shall not be allowed to hang out underneath the uniform shirt.

Cold Weather Apparel/Outerwear:

Windbreakers, sweat shirt jackets, jackets, coats, must be buttoned or zippered from top to bottom in any color except camouflage, with no visible emblems or logos, or gestures, language or characters. Outerwear may not be oversized. (Example: Starter jackets/coats, No Limit, Guess, trench coats, etc.) Sweatshirts, cardigans, or pullover sweaters must be worn with school shirts underneath with the collar visible and must be solid school shirt or pants colors, not oversized with no visible logo. Approved school letter jackets and club jackets are permitted.

New (first time out-of-parish) and transfer students will be given two (2) weeks from the date of enrollment to obtain the required uniform.

On special days, principals may allow students to deviate from the dress code.

The principal shall exercise discretionary authority in the interpretation of dress code rules and anything else, which necessitates judgment as to what is and is not proper dress.

### CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS

Students who violate the dress code shall be disciplined in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

A student enrolled in grades prekindergarten through five shall not be suspended or expelled from school or suspended from riding on any school bus for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.

Revised: November, 2004  
Revised: August, 2006  
Revised: October, 2006  
Revised: July, 2007  
Revised: February 2, 2009

Revised: June 7, 2010  
Revised: September 7, 2010  
Revised: May 6, 2013  
Revised: September 14, 2015  
Revised: January 11, 2016

Ref: Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt; 460 F. 2d 609 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1972); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§14:95.9, 17:81, 17:416.7; Board minutes, 4-3-00, 6-5-06, 9-11-06, 7-2-07, 2-2-09, 6-7-10, 9-7-10, 5-6-13, 9-14-15. 1-11-16.