

OBION COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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TO: Obion County Principals

FROM: David W. Huss

DATE: April 19, 2010

RE: **Administrative Procedure for Simplified Dress Code**

In an effort to be more uniform in the enforcement of the Obion County Dress Code from school to school, the following is a simplified version of Board Policy #6.310. This administrative procedure is not intended to change or modify, nor does it change or modify, Board policy and is issued for additional guidance.

Basic Dress Guidelines for All Clothing

- All clothing must be without any visible pictures or writing, except for a small designer logo that can be covered by a 3½-inch by 2-inch business card. The logo of the school being attended by the student is exempt from this size requirement.
- All items of clothing must be properly sized and must be without holes, tears, or shredding.
- Sweatpants, wind pants, pajama pants, athletic shorts, jogging suits, or warm-up suits must not be worn.
- Clothing and jewelry that indicates drug culture or gang membership, supports gang behavior, or is gang identified will not be allowed.

Pants/Skirts/Shorts/Jumpers

- Students may wear any solid color shorts/pants/jeans, walking shorts, skirts, dresses, skorts, Capri pants, gauchos, or jumpers.
- Walking shorts, skirts, dresses, skorts, jumpers, and any similar-type clothing must be worn at or below the knee.
- Un-hemmed pants, frayed bottoms, and cutoffs are not allowed.
- In grades 6 through 12, all pants/jeans, walking shorts, skirts, dresses, skorts, Capri pants, gauchos, or jumpers with belt loops must have a belt.

Shirts/Sweaters/Coats

- Students must wear a long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt with a collar (polo style, button down/dress style, or turtleneck) that must cover the entire upper body.
- Students in grades 6 through 12 must have shirttails tucked.

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- Vests, light jackets, including school jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts without hoods, and cardigans are permitted over the basic shirt.
- Heavy coats, heavy jackets, and raincoats are not to be worn inside the building.

Footwear

- Athletic shoes, sandals, and boots are permitted.
- House shoes and flip flops are not permitted.

Headwear/Earrings/Jewelry/Piercing

- Pierced jewelry must be limited to earrings only: students may wear two pairs of earrings provided the earrings are not distracting or present a safety issue. Other pierced jewelry (real or look alike) is not allowed.
- Non-prescribed mouth accessories will not be allowed (i.e., no grills).
- Hats, toboggans, bandanas, headscarves, sweatbands, stocking caps, hair racks/combs, hair rollers, combs, rakes, do rags, and sunglasses cannot be worn in the building.
- All tattoos and brands must be completely covered at all times.

Miscellaneous

- Athletic teams/clubs – All teams and/or clubs shall travel in adherence to the dress code or approved team apparel. Field trips are included.
- Haircuts, hairstyles, or hair color that is non-traditional to the point of causing distractions is not allowed.
- The principal or designee has the authority to determine if the attire is improper and interferes with the teaching/learning process or is prejudicial to good order at school.

Compliance/Dress Code Consequences

A student will not be allowed to return to class until the dress code violation has been corrected. Repeated non-compliance is determined to be a disciplinary issue.

Exemptions

A parent/guardian who objects to the Obion County School's standard dress code because of religious beliefs must obtain a copy of the dress code and request an exemption in writing. A parent/guardian may request, in writing, a medical exemption based on the medical needs of the student. The principal must accept or deny the request within two (2) school days. If the request is denied, the principal must provide a written explanation for his/her decision.

A parent/guardian can appeal the principal's decision within two (2) days to the director of schools. The director of schools must meet with the parent/guardian within five (5) school days of the receipt of the request and must render a decision within five (5) school days after meeting with parent/guardian. If the request is denied, the director of schools must provide a written explanation for his/her decision.

The parent may make a final appeal to the Board of Education and ask the Board to review the written record of the request for exemption and the denials. This appeal must be made within five school days of the director of schools and/or his/her designee's denial of the appeal. The Board may hold a hearing on

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the exemption request at its discretion. The decision of the Board of Education is final. A student will remain in school in the dress style recommended by the parent until the appeal is final.

Obion County School System Faculty and Staff Dress Code

The faculty and staff of the Obion County School System are responsible for establishing a strong professional image in our community. All faculty and staff are expected to dress in a way that brings credibility to the profession.

Professional dress on regular school days is business casual. Professional dress does not include jeans, shorts, wind suits, and sweat suits. Revealing clothing is considered inappropriate. The school principals will make exceptions to these professional dress guidelines for special events, field trips, etc.