

DRESS CODE

Lauderdale County Board of Education recognizes and understands that there is a strong correlation between appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. To help create not only the best learning environment, but also the safest, the following expectations for student dress have been established. Apparel or appearance that tends to draw attention to an individual rather than the education process and learning environment must be avoided. The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty or if it is drawing undue attention thereby interfering with the learning environment. In matters of opinion, the judgment of the principal/designee shall prevail. When, in the opinion of the principal/designee, a student is not attired appropriately or exhibits grooming which constitutes a distraction and/or disturbance to the extent of being detrimental to the school environment, the principal/designee shall contact the parents and have the student dress suitably before returning to school. Inability to contact the parents will result in the student remaining in the office and/or being placed in in-school suspension or another designated area. This will serve as first warning. Repeat offenses will follow the school discipline code at the next level following the warning.

All clothing must not have holes, be cut-off, ripped or see-through and must be sized to fit.

The basic dress shall be solid khaki, navy or solid blue denim pants, shorts, skirts or jumpers.

Shirts/blouses must have a collar and be solid white, light pink, navy blue, school colors or a combination of school colors. School colors may be layered and white may be worn under any approved color.

School colors are as follows:

Lauderdale Middle, Ripley High, Ripley Primary and Ripley Elementary: Purple (not lavender) and white

Halls High, Halls Junior High and Halls Elementary: Black and gold (not yellow)

A. Shirts/Blouses

- Must have a collar – either polo, turtleneck, dress shirt with collar
- Must be tucked in (This is encouraged but not required for PreK – 2 nd grade)
- Must have no logo other than a small brand or school logo
- Solid white, light pink, navy blue or school colored crew neck shirts are optional if they have a small school name, school initials or school mascot embroidered or screen-printed.

B. Pants, Shorts and Skirts or Jumpers:

- Pants/shorts must be worn at the waist.
- A belt must be worn and be visible if the garment has belt loops (This is encouraged but not required for PreK – 2 nd grade)
- Sagging, bagging and skintight fit is not allowed.
- Pant legs will not touch the floor and will not be frayed or cut.
- There is to be no writing, studs or design other than a small brand logo
- Shorts, skirts and jumpers must be knee length. This also applies to slits in skirts or dresses.

C. Footwear

- Is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity
- Must be laced, tied, strapped or hooked.

- Tennis shoes or closed toed shoes must be worn on the playground and in physical education classes.
- Sandals are permitted
- Spiked heels, rubber flip-flops, bedroom slippers or house-shoes are not permitted.

D. Coats/Jackets/Sweaters

- Jackets and cardigan style sweaters must be one of the approved solid colors with no writing except personal name or a combination of school colors.
- School organizations or club jackets are acceptable.
- Trench coats are not permitted.
- Heavy coats worn to school must be placed in designated areas. Exceptions to this may be permitted in extremely cold weather, during equipment malfunction situations, or when changing classes if going from one building to another.
- Lightweight jackets or cardigan style sweaters may be worn unbuttoned or unzipped.
- Pullover hoodies are not permitted.

E. Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, belt buckles, jewelry, tattoos, brands and notebooks must not contain:

- Racial or ethnic slurs or symbols
- Gang affiliations
- Vulgar, obscene, subversive, disruptive of the school environment, derogatory to any individual, or sexually suggestive language or images
- Promotions of products that students may not legally buy such as alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, controlled substances, weapons or weapon products.

F. The following are prohibited:

- Large, long, and/or heavy chains
- Studded or chained accessories
- Sunglasses, except for health purposes (a prescription will be required)
- Facial jewelry, designer lenses, grills
- Head apparel, except for required hats
- Sweat shirts, sweat pants and wind suits
- Hair rollers, hair picks and combs worn in the hair
- Belts that are not buckled
- Excessive makeup, facial drawings
- Distracting or unusual hairstyle and/or color

G. Extracurricular activity uniforms may be worn on designated days approved by the principal.

H. ROTC, FFA and nursing uniforms may be worn on designated days approved by the principal.

I. The principal may allow exceptions for school wide programs or special classroom activities up to ten (10) days per year.

J. Students new to Lauderdale County Schools have five (5) school days to be in compliance with the dress code.

Exemptions:

A parent who objects to standardized dress because of his or her religion or religious beliefs doctrine stipulates a certain attire must obtain a copy of the policy on Standard Dress, a Request for Exemption Application and an Exemption Questionnaire, and return them to school. The principal shall review the documents and accept or deny the request or exemption. The principal must accept or deny the request within two (2) school days.. If the principal denies the request, he or she must give the parent a written basis for the decision. The parent can appeal a principal's denial of the request to the Director of Schools within two (2) school days of receiving the principal's denial. The Director of Schools must meet

with the parents within five (5) school days of the receipt of the request for appeal, and must render a decision within five (5) school days of meeting with the parents. If the Director of Schools also denies the request he or she must provide a written basis for the 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 (5) school days of the Director of School's denial of the appeal. The Board may hold a hearing on the exemption request at its discretion. The decision of the Board is final. A student will remain in school in the dress style recommended by the parent until the appeal process is completed.

Dress Code Compliance / Consequences

First Violation –

Students will receive a verbal warning. The student will attempt to call a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school. Students will be allowed to remain in class. Students who miss class work due to the necessity of changing into clothes that meet the dress code will have until the next day to make up any missed work. It is his/her responsibility to get missed assignments from his/her teachers. A “Notice of Noncompliance” will be sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Second Violation-

The student will attempt to call a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school. If a change is not brought within one hour of contact, the student shall receive a minimum of 1 day in ISS. A “ Notice of Noncompliance will be sent home with the student.. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Third Violation-

The student will attempt to call a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school. If a change is not brought within one hour of contact, the student shall be assigned to ISS for two (2) days. A “ Notice of Noncompliance will be sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Fourth Violation-

The student will be suspended from school for up to ten (10) days. A “ Notice of Noncompliance will be mailed and sent home with the student. This notice requires the parent to call or come to the school the day after receiving the notice for a conference to discuss the standard dress policy.

Subsequent Violations –

The student may be remanded to the Alternative school (Grades 3 – 12) or expelled from school. A “Notice of Noncompliance” will be mailed and sent home with the student. A conference with the parent at the school is required.