



Dress Code Policy Procedure

In an effort to provide clear guidelines and directions for parents, RMS has followed a strict process to gather input from all stakeholders. Teachers, parents, students, and administrators have provided feedback that helped shape the Purpose and Belief Statements around Riverside Middle School's Dress Code Policy. The goal of this policy is to promote a safe, respectful, comfortable learning environment, and with input from all of the stakeholders listed above, we have developed procedures that intend to not discriminate, disrespect, or degrade an individual or group of individuals.

A. Purpose:

1. Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as science (eye or body protection) or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
2. Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
3. Allow students to wear clothing as self-expression without discrimination or judgment.
4. Ensure that all students are treated equitably and allow students to develop self-confidence.
5. Prevent students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, pornography, depictions of violence, or promotion of alcohol or drugs.
6. Create a safe learning environment and allow our personnel and camera systems to identify potential behaviors quickly.
7. Developing students' awareness that there is varying attire for different settings. Since students will face different dress expectations in different places in their lives, understanding and complying to policies that are different in different situations, is an important life lesson.

B. Beliefs

1. All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline.
2. An individual students' clothing/self-expression should not be regulated based upon another student or staff member's personal perspective or discomfort.
3. Staff can focus on their jobs without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.
4. Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
5. Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline should be minimized whenever possible.
6. All students are encouraged to dress in a manner that is comfortable and conducive to an active school day and learning environment.
7. The student dress code should serve to support all students to develop a positive self-image, not based on social pressures, while following parameters set forth.
8. Rules are set in place throughout society for many reasons. We have a civic duty to follow reasonable rules and guidelines.

C. Responsibilities

1. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and parents or guardians.
2. The school district and individual schools are responsible for seeing that student attire supports the learning environment, does not interfere with the health or safety of any student and that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student.
3. The school district and individual schools have set a clear and reasonable dress code.

Dress Code Policy

Students MUST Wear:

- Top
- Bottom
- Shoes
- Clothing that covers specific body parts
- Clothing must be opaque material

Students MAY Wear:

- Hooded sweatshirts (hood up is not allowed)
- Religious headwear
- Fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, and “skinny jeans”
- Sweatpants, shorts, skirts, dresses, pants
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear or body parts are not exposed
- Tank tops with a defined strap (must have material between the seams)
- Athletic attire that does not expose body parts
- Clothing with commercial or athletic logos provided they do not violate the guidelines in the ‘CANNOT Wear’ section below

Students **CANNOT** Wear:

- Clothing that includes violent language or images.
- Clothing that includes images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of the same.
- Clothing that includes hate speech, profanity, and/or pornography.
- Clothing that includes images or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment for any student or group of students in the school. This includes gang-affiliated attire.
- Visible underwear or bathing suits of similar design (visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation).
- Clothing shorter than the District required fingertip length measurement.
- Midriff baring shirts or spaghetti straps tops, halter tops, and “tube” (strapless) tops
- Pajamas (unless specifically designated for spirit but must still meet requirements)
- Hats, helmets, hoods, sunglasses or other headgear that obscures a student’s identity (except as a religious observance)

Enforcement

- All staff must enforce the district dress code consistently. Staff will alert the grade-level administrator via email. The student should not be spoken to by the teacher directly.
- Enforcement should be consistent with the school's overall discipline plan. Failure to comply with the student dress code should be enforced consistently with comparable behavior and conduct violations.
 - 1st Offense—Administrative Conference
 - 2nd and 3rd Offense—Administrative conference and communication with parents
 - 4th Offense—Student will receive consequences equal to failure to comply with policies
- Violations should be treated as minor on the continuum of school rule violations.
- Every effort should be made to avoid removing a student from a classroom for a dress code violation. Loss of class time should be avoided or kept to a minimum.
- Students should never be forced to wear extra school clothing (that isn't their own) when they are in violation of the code. Students should be presented with a variety of options to rectify the situation if the violation is of a violent nature or promotes drug/alcohol use. This could include but is not limited to personal on-site clothing, school-offered clothing, and delivery of alternate clothing.
- Parents/guardians will not be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day unless by student request.
- Students should not be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement.

Dress Code violations and consequences are at the discretion of the administration.