

Waxahachie ISD Student Dress Code – 2019-20 School Year

The Waxahachie Independent School District is committed to providing an excellent educational opportunity for each student in the district. Efforts are made to ensure the highest standards of performance for all Waxahachie ISD students and to promote a safe and secure environment.

The District's dress code is used to promote grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, help avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority. In addition, dress and grooming standards shall promote community values and good citizenship, enhance a safe orderly educational environment, and not infringe on any individual's religious beliefs or protected free speech.

The desire of the district is to present changes in a positive format; however, the most effective manner in which to explain the changes is to list the prohibited dress and/or grooming practices. Even though the Dress Code is restrictive, students continue to have a wide variety of choices. The cooperation of parents and students and the consistent and fair enforcement of this policy by teachers and administrators are essential to the effectiveness of the Code. Students violating the dress code will be assigned disciplinary consequences in accordance *Waxahachie ISD Code of Conduct*.

The campus principal has the final decision as to what constitutes appropriate school attire, including exceptions to the Code made for district and campus spirit days. Administrators shall have the discretion to determine the appropriateness of attire and grooming for religious and/or medical necessities.

The Following Modes of Dress or Grooming Are Prohibited:

General

- Any aspect of a student's appearance, attire or accessories that is likely to distract or disrupt the learning environment, including images or messages that are illegal, inappropriate, lewd, vulgar, sexually suggestive, containing profanity, or promoting violation of school rules (i.e., promoting drugs, tobacco use, alcohol, violence, gangs, death, sex, profanity, or hate)
- Exposed skin or undergarments visible above fingertip length (i.e. arms hanging naturally as student is standing straight and upright).
- See-through clothing (e.g. thin or mesh) unless worn over appropriate garments.

Shirts, Tops, and Blouses

- Sleeveless shirts or blouses that are not hemmed.
- Spaghetti straps, halter tops, basketball jerseys, tank tops, tube tops, unbuttoned shirts and blouses, and overalls (unless worn over appropriate garments), and strapless tops.
- Exposed midriff or cleavage.
- Backless tops.

Dresses, Skirts, Shorts, and Pants

- Dresses, shorts, skirts, or slits in skirts shorter than fingertip length with arms in normal position (i.e. arms hanging naturally as student is standing straight and upright) and strapless dresses.

- Pants, shorts, and skirts worn below the waist (i.e., “sagging” garments). Students may be required to use an accessory, provided by campus, to ensure that pants are worn at normal waist level.
- Underwear as outerwear or exposed underwear or nightwear.
- Fitted bottoms such as: leggings, leotards, and yoga pants, or worn with only a top, sweater, or dress that is shorter than fingertip length with arms in normal position.
- Athletic shorts that are finger-tip length but are hemmed with a rise on the side of the leg that is above the finger- tip. (This style of short may be worn with slider style shorts or tights underneath that are at least finger-tip length.)

Outerwear (Coats, Jackets, Coveralls, Etc.)

- Trench coats or dusters.
- One-piece jump suits.

Accessories

- Piercings: tongue rings, lip rings, eyebrow rings, ear gauges, spacers, facial jewelry such as hoops or rings, visible body piercings or facial decorations. Students may, however, wear one small nose stud or one small nostril ring (not to be worn in the septum - cartilage that separates the two nostrils).
- Chains on clothing or wallets.
- Heavy or spiked jewelry (e.g., dog collars, spiked bracelets or belts, etc.).
- Visible tattoos deemed disruptive or inappropriate (must be covered at all times).
- Headwear: Hats, caps, bandannas, sweatbands or other head coverings. Garments with hoods may not be worn with the hood over the head inside the perimeter of the building during the school day.

Footwear

- Soft-bottom house shoes, bare feet, shoes with metal cleats, or shoes with wheels.

Grooming

- Sunglasses (except with a signed note from the school nurse).
- Hairstyles that are disruptive (e.g., natural Mohawks not to exceed 2” in height when spiked, designs which display inappropriate symbols or messages, etc.)
- Non-natural colored hair or extensions (e.g., green, blue, purple, orange or multi-colored)

Exemptions

Parents or guardians seeking an exemption from the Dress Code for their student must complete a Waxahachie ISD Dress Code Exemption Request Form. This form is available upon request by mail or in person in the main office. The form is also available on the Waxahachie ISD website. The form must be completed in full and returned to the campus principal. The parent or guardian will be asked to discuss with the campus principal the reasons and goal of the policy and the nature of the objections to the Dress Code. This meeting shall be held within ten days after receipt of the form. Based on the information provided in the Exemption Request Form and the interview with the parent, the campus principal will make a determination as to whether the exemption is granted. This decision shall be provided to the

student or parent within ten days following the conference. Parents with more than one student enrolled in the district must fill out a separate Waxahachie ISD Dress Code Exemption Request Form for each student.

Any appeal of the campus principal's decision will be treated as a student/parent or guardian complaint under Waxahachie ISD Board Policy FNG(LOCAL).

Unless otherwise approved by the campus principal, the student must continue to comply with the Waxahachie ISD Dress Code pending the outcome of the Exemption Meeting.