

#524-B STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE FOR WOODBRIIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Woodbridge Township Board of Education (“Board”) believes that the manner in which students dress can influence student behavior. The Board, at the request of the Principal, staff and parents of Woodbridge Middle School (“WMS”), has determined that a standardized dress code policy will enhance the school learning environment at WMS. The Board and the WMS Community (which includes the administration, staff, parents, and students of WMS) believe that implementation of a standardized dress code policy will further support the goals of WMS to:

- Create an atmosphere that focuses on the seriousness of an education;
- Keep students more focused on learning;
- Create a sense of pride and belonging among students;
- Enhance student safety, and reduce violence and theft;
- Alleviate social pressures and discourage competition based on clothing;
- Minimize disruption that results from inappropriate or gang-related clothing;
- Reduce distraction and loss of self-esteem caused by teasing or competition over clothing;
- Quickly identify intruders;
- Reduce cost to parents; and
- Prepare students for future roles in the professional workplace.

The adoption of a standardized dress code policy will further promote the Board’s Dress Code Policy #524 at WMS. The Board held a public hearing on March 13, 2008, prior to the adoption and implementation of this Policy. This Policy shall not be implemented in the individual school for at least three months after Board approval and after providing notice to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the students in the school.

Standardized Dress Code

The Principal and a representative committee of staff, students, and parents and/or legal guardians of students attending WMS chose the standardized dress to be worn by the WMS students. The Principal presented the standardized dress selection to the Board. A description of the standardized dress code is attached to this Policy.

The standardized dress attire to be worn to school shall be purchased by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) directly from the vendors of their choice who have been determined to provide the designated attire. The Board reserves the right to identify particular vendors to provide the standardized dress code items. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may patronize these vendors if they so choose.

The Board believes the cost of standardized dress attire will result in a lesser expense for each student than not wearing standardized dress attire. The Board shall not pay for the standardized dress attire. However, WMS may work with the school’s parents’ organization to develop fundraising opportunities, community donation programs, and corporate sponsorships to defray the cost of the standardized dress attire to students and to assist in the compliance with this Policy by economically disadvantaged students.

This Standardized Dress Code Policy does not prohibit students, who participate in nationally recognized youth organizations (girl scouts, boy scouts, etc.) that are approved and/or recognized by the Board, from wearing organization uniforms to school on days the organization

has a scheduled meeting or for a scheduled and specific purpose for wearing such organization uniform as approved in advance by the Principal.

A parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may request an exemption for their child from wearing the standardized dress attire by completing the Application for Standardized Dress Code Policy Exemption stating a bona fide religious objection to wearing the standardized dress code policy. The Application requires the applicant to indicate the objection with specificity and to provide alternative dress the pupil will wear to school to be in compliance with the bona fide objection. The Principal will designate a committee of school staff members to consider all exemption requests and the committee will grant exemptions upon a finding that the objection is based in a deeply held religious belief.

To enhance the sense of belonging and community at WMS, the faculty is encouraged to model the standardized dress code.

Non-Compliance

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student who does not wear a standardized dress to school without permission and/or an exemption, shall be subject to the following consequence:

Incident	Consequence
1 st	Student will be provided with written warning that will be transmitted to the parents. Student will have opportunity to change clothes, if possible.
2 nd	Student will be provided with 2 nd written warning that will be transmitted to the parents. Student will have opportunity to change clothes, if possible. Student will serve administrative detention.
3 rd	Student will be provided with 3 rd written warning that will be transmitted to the parents. Student will have opportunity to change clothes, if possible. Student will be placed in an Alternative Class Setting.
4 th	Student will be provided with written warning that will be transmitted to the parents. Student will have opportunity to change clothes, if possible. Student will be suspended for one day out of school and will be excluded from extracurricular activities.

For further violations of the policy, the Principal will have the discretion to impose disciplinary measures that are deemed appropriate.

A parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil shall not be determined non-compliant with this Policy in the event the pupil is determined by the Principal to be exercising his/her First Amendment rights or has permission from the Principal or an exemption pursuant to this Policy.

A pupil will not be penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against nor denied admittance to school if the pupil is granted permission by the Principal and/or is granted an exemption.

School Buildings in the District

In the event a Principal, school staff, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils in another school in Woodbridge desire to have this Policy implemented in their school building, the procedures set

forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8 shall be followed. The Superintendent and the Building Principal will coordinate the scheduling of a public hearing with the Board President.

Annual Policy Review

The Board of Education will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis before the end of each school year. The Principal will compile a report to the Superintendent to be presented to the Board indicating the impact the standardized dress code had on the school's learning environment. This report shall be presented to the Board by June 30th. The Board will consider this report and may revise this Policy accordingly.

Policy Publication

The Principal of the school will distribute a copy of this Policy to:

- parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of all pupils in the school;
- parent(s) of legal guardian(s) of all pupils entering the school from another school in the district; and/or
- parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of all pupils entering the school during the school year from another school district.

Reference: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-8
Board Policy #524, Student Dress Code

Date Adopted: 4/24/08

ATTIRE FOR SCHOOL DAY
(No layering of clothing)

Shirts:	<p>Solid color polo style shirts with collar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long or short sleeved (solid colors: white, navy blue, red, black, grey, burgundy) ▪ Hip length ▪ Size appropriate ▪ No writing or graphics on shirts <p>Oxford style shirt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be buttoned ▪ Hip length ▪ Colors the same as above ▪ Size appropriate ▪ No writing or graphics <p><i>Woodbridge Middle School logo shirts acceptable. Sweaters, vests and zippered collared fleeces may be worn. No hooded attire.</i></p>
Pants:	<p>Solid color khaki style pants - NO JEANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pants should not have rivets on the pockets ▪ Cargo pants acceptable ▪ Colors: tan, navy, black, grey ▪ Size appropriate (no excessively baggy pants; no excessively tight pants) ▪ No writing or graphics <p>Acceptable options:</p> <p>For Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capri length pants ▪ Bermuda length shorts ▪ Knee length skirts ▪ No writing or graphics <p>For Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knee length shorts ▪ No writing or graphics
Footwear	Shoes will remain consistent with the current policy. Black, Brown or white shoes or sneakers are suggested.

ATTIRE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Shirts:	<p>Solid color T shirt/sweatshirt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No writing or graphics <p><i>Woodbridge Middle School logo shirts acceptable</i></p>
Shorts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball style; No writing or graphics ▪ Mid-thigh length
Sweatpants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No particular color is required; No writing or graphics
Footwear:	Sneakers

