

Obion County Board of Education Standard Dress Code

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Obion County Board of Education to provide the best possible educational environment for every student attending schools under its jurisdiction. It is also the Board's belief that student dress reflects the quality of the school and affects the conduct of students through their class work. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes and accessories that are appropriate for school activities.

The Obion County Board of Education has a responsibility to prepare students to take their place in society as mature, responsible adults. While the Obion County Board of Education desires to allow students flexibility in dress code, it is important that all students follow these guidelines in order to prevent stricter regulations.

A student's physical appearance must be clean, neat, and not distracting. Students must adhere to the dress code on school buses. Parental judgment is suggested, but administrative judgment will take precedence. With this in mind, the following dress code is offered.

Basic Dress Guidelines for All Clothing

- All clothing must be without any visible pictures. Clothing must have no design, or printing, or be made of printed-patterned fabric, except for a small designer logo that can be covered by a 3 -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. No oversized or undersized shirts will be allowed. Pants must fit at the waist, be sized to fit, and must not be skintight, undersized, oversized, sagging, or dragging the ground or floor. Baggy pants, saggy pants, tights, or pants made of spandex are prohibited. Pants more than one size larger than the body are considered oversized.
- All clothing must be without holes, tears, or shredding.
- Clothing must fit properly and be appropriate for the activity at all times.
- Any article of clothing, including shoes, must be worn with its intended style (e.g., if it is supposed to be zipped, zip it; if it is supposed to be buckled, buckle it; if it is supposed to be buttoned, button it; if it is supposed to be tied, tie it).
- Gloves must not be worn inside the school facilities.
- Sweatpants, wind pants, pajama pants, jogging suits, or warm-up suits must not be worn.
- Only one collared shirt must be worn at a time – no layering of shirts.
- One, solid color, short sleeved, long sleeved, or turtle neck-type tee shirt may be worn as an undergarment and must be tucked in at all times.
- Clothing 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 pants/jeans, walking shorts, skirts, dresses, skorts, Capri pants, gauchos, or jumpers. "Low-rider" jeans/pants and jeans/pants with embroidery, except at the pockets and/or hemline, are prohibited.
- Walking shorts, skirts, dresses, skorts, jumpers, and any similar-type clothing must be worn at or below the knee.
- Cargo/painters pants/shorts are allowed.
- Bell-bottoms are not permitted. Pants are not to be tucked or rolled up over socks or shoes.
- Shorts must be dress-type. Sport shorts are not allowed.
- 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.
- Only one belt is to be worn at a time and must be appropriately sized. Only standard belt buckles are allowed. Oversized belt buckles are prohibited.

Shirts/Sweaters/Coats

- Students must wear a long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt with a collar (polo style, button down/dress style, or turtleneck). All buttons on shirts must be buttoned, except that the top button may be worn unbuttoned.
- Shirts must cover the entire upper body and be a contrasting color to pants.
- No cap sleeves or sleeveless shirts are allowed. There must be a seam under the arms.
- Shirts approved by school administration that represent school-based organizations will be allowed on designated days.
- Students in grades 6 through 12 must have shirttails tucked in and belt lines visible.
- Students in grades Pre-K through 5 must have shirttails tucked in and belt lines visible, unless the shirt is made to be left untucked. "Made to be left untucked" requires the shirt length to extend to at least the top of the pocket area on the pants, but not below the bottom of the pocket area on the pants.
- Vests, light jackets, including school jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts without hoods, and cardigans are permitted over the basic shirt. These items may be multi-colored, waist length or longer. Light jackets, if worn inside, must be left open.
- Long-sleeved tee shirts or flannel shirts are not allowed as a vest, sweater, or light jacket.
- Heavy coats, heavy jackets, and raincoats are not to be worn inside the building.

Footwear

- Shoes can have heels no higher than one and one-half inches. Athletic shoes, sandals, and boots are permitted.
- House shoes are not permitted.
- Flip flops are not permitted.
- Laces must be a single color, the same color with only one pair of laces per shoe. Shoes must be the same color.
- Socks must be a single, solid color.

Headwear/Earrings/Jewelry/Piercing

- Clothing or jewelry that indicates drug culture or gang membership, supports gang behavior, or is gang identified is not allowed.
- Students must not wear jewelry or hair accessories that may be construed as dangerous or distracting.
- 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, brands, and body piercing must be completely covered at all times.

Miscellaneous

- Special Days (such as "Spirit Day," Homecoming, etc.) may be set aside by school administrators to allow variations in the dress code. Dates will be announced.
- Athletic teams/clubs – All teams and/or clubs shall travel in adherence to the dress code. Field trips are included.
- 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.

While not considered student dress, the following can cause distraction to the normal educational process and will not be allowed:

- Body piercing except for traditional pierced earlobes for ornamental earrings will not be allowed.
- Hair cuts, hairstyles, or hair color that is non-traditional to the point of causing distractions is not allowed.
- Fingernails that are excessively long are not allowed.
- Clothing with a low-cut neckline or clothing that exposes midriffs or backs cannot be worn in the school building.
- See-through clothing cannot be worn in the school building.
- Sleepwear cannot be worn in the school building.

.Compliance/Dress Code Consequences

First Violation

Student will receive a verbal warning, AND the student must call parent/guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school AND change clothing. Student will have until the following day to make up any work missed. A "Notice of Non-Compliance" will be sent home with the student OR given to the parent when appropriate clothing is brought to school.

Second and Third Violations

Student will receive a verbal warning, AND the student must call parent/guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school AND change clothing. Student will have until the following day to make up any work missed. A "Notice of Non-Compliance" will be sent home with the student OR given to the parent when appropriate clothing is brought to school. Parental contact must be made. Disciplinary procedures will be left to the discretion of the school principal.

Fourth and Subsequent Violations

Student will receive a verbal warning, AND the student must call parent/guardian to bring appropriate clothing to school AND change clothing. Student will have until the following day to make up any work missed. A "Notice of Non-Compliance" will be mailed AND sent home with the student. Student will be assigned Saturday School for fourth and subsequent violations of the Standard Dress Code Policy.

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 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.