

PLEASE POST

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07-10-20

**WOLCOTT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

**MEETING NOTICE**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Committee of the Whole**

**DATE:** Monday, July 13, 2020

**PLACE:** Google Meet

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**PIN:**

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://sites.google.com/wolcottps.org/wps-distance-learning/home-click-on-pages-below/wps-boe-meetings>

**TIME:** 6:15 P.M.

**AGENDA**

1. Discussion on Non-Certified Employee Contracts
2. Discussion on Personnel Conduct and Dress Code Policy
3. Discussion on Student Dress and Grooming Guidelines
4. Discussion on Student Tardy and Release Time Policy
5. Discussion on One-to-One Chromebooks
6. Discussion on 2020 – 2021 School Calendar
7. Business Manager's Report
8. Possible discussion on items that appear on this evening's BOE Agenda

*Cynthia Mancini* <sup>AK</sup>

Cynthia Mancini, Chairman  
Wolcott Board of Education

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## **Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified**

### **Conduct and Dress**

The Board of Education believes that teachers and all school employees are role models for the students with whom they came in contact with during and after school hours. Instructional personnel are encouraged to present a professional impression in their dress and appearance and to project an acceptable role-model image for their students which is not offensive to community standards nor disruptive of educational process.

This policy is not intended to usurp any individual's right to dress as he or she pleases. However, in light of the nature of dealing with young formative persons in the school setting, discretion and common sense call for an avoidance of any extreme which would interfere with the normal educational process.

In instances in which federal, state, or local public health agencies require or advise the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), the Superintendent may require it to be worn at all times during work hours and/or specify certain conditions in which it must be worn. Employees with legitimate health concerns that would make the wearing of PPE dangerous or harmful may present the Superintendent with written proof of such from a licensed medical provider. The Superintendent will make accommodations for the employee to the degree prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act or other pertinent federal law or state statute.

**Policy adopted: February 11, 2002**

Policy revised: XXXX

## Students

### Dress and Grooming Guidelines

#### Purpose

This dress code is adopted because of safety concerns and because of the need to preserve an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, specific items are prohibited because of their propensity for causing or contributing to injury or causing disturbances and/or distraction among students and thereby interfering with the classroom atmosphere and educational process.

Additionally, included in this policy is governance for the required wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) when required or advised by federal, state, or local health officials. In alignment with such requirements or recommendations, the Superintendent may direct that all students wear certain PPE at certain times and under certain circumstances (both on school grounds and on school buses). Students will be expected to provide their own PPE but the school district will provide it in instances of financial hardship or as needed.

#### Requirements

- Personal hygiene, including cleanliness of dress, is required.
- Students' clothing or hair should not be hazardous to them in various school activities such as shop, laboratories, athletics, physical education and art.
- Grooming and dress that prevent the student from doing his/her best work because of blocked vision or restricted movement, or that expose the student to accidents, must be avoided.
- Clothing, hair arrangements or other personal adornments or embellishments that disrupt, distract or interfere with regular school operations are prohibited.
- Comply with all guidelines issued by the Superintendent regarding the wearing of PPE.

#### Elementary Schools

The Superintendent of Schools and other designated administrative personnel shall have the authority to require a student to change his/her attire should it be deemed inappropriate according to the guidelines.

The types of clothing suggested for students are as follows:

1. **Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts:** Can be any color and of "dress" or "Dockers" style. Shorts, skirts or skorts must be to the knee in length.
2. **Shirts or blouses:** Can be any style. NO tee shirts.

**3. Shoes:** Shoes are allowed; however, sneakers are recommended. Sandals and shoes with elevated heels are not permitted. (This recommendation is due to a safety concern.)

**4. Sweaters:** Can be worn if desired.

**5. Jumpers:** Optional.

**6. Sweats:** May be worn to school only on gym day.

### **All Schools**

The following attire is specifically prohibited from wear in the public schools during the academic school day:

- Footwear that marks/damages floors or is a safety hazard such as beach sandals, thongs, slippery-soled shoes, excessively high heels, backless shoes, such as clogs and unties sneakers.
- Beach wear such as tank tops, athletic style undershirts, tight fitting spandex style pants and shorts, fishnet tops, half shirts, clothing that exposes cleavage or bare midriffs, halter tops, backless shirts, short shorts, bathing suits and sun suits.
- T-shirts that are sexually explicit, vulgar, offensively lewd or indecent or that contain profanity.
- Frayed or torn clothing.
- Undergarments worn as outer garments.
- Coats, jackets or attire normally worn as outerwear, gloves and hats.
- Head coverings of any kind, including, but not limited to scarves, bandanas, masks, kerchiefs, athletic headbands, hats, caps or hoods. Exemptions will be made for legitimate religious head coverings such as yarmulkes, burkas, hijabs, or similar.
- Sunglasses (unless required by a doctor's order).
- Spiked or studded bracelets, oversized or multi-finger rings, belts or any other article or attire with spikes or studs attached.
- Attire or accessories that depict logos or emblems that advertise or encourage the use of drugs, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages.
- Attire or accessories that are related to gang membership or gang activities.
- Shirts and/or blouses that reveal the abdomen, chest or undergarments.

- See through clothing.
- Shorts, miniskirts or pants that reveal the upper thigh or undergarments.
- Backpacks and/or book bags that obstruct the safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.
- Jewelry that poses a distraction or safety concern.

### **Enforcement of Prohibited Attire**

Students whose dress and grooming does not conform to these standards or students who fail to comply with the wearing of PPE as specified by the Superintendent will be referred to the Principal who will inform students of necessary changes in dress and or PPE. If students fail to remedy the problem, parents will be contacted. If the problem remains uncorrected, students will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with provisions of Connecticut General Statute, the policies of the Board of Education, and protocols in the student handbook.

### **Physical Education Classes**

Wolcott Public School students shall be required to wear appropriate gym clothing and sneakers when participating in physical education classes.

With the exception of K-5 students, gym clothing will not be the same clothing being worn by students in regular classes. This provision shall not apply in schools where showers and locker facilities are unavailable. In such schools on the days of gym class assignments, students are urged to come to school wearing appropriate clothes for active participation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statute § 10-233 et seq.

**Policy originally adopted: July 19, 1999**

**Policy amended and readopted: February 11, 2002**

### **Students**

### **Guidelines and Regulations For Implementing the Dress Code Policy at the Elementary Schools**

#### **Background**

Over the past several years, many parents and community members have urged the Board to adopt a dress code policy as a means of minimizing disruption and improving the learning environment.

#### **Statement Of Policy**

All elementary schools in the Wolcott School District shall implement, within-the parameters set forth below, the dress code policy beginning with the 1998-1999 school year.

### **Commencement of Dress Code Policy**

The dress code policy shall be effective August 31 of the 1998-1999 school year.

### **Information Dissemination**

A. It is the responsibility of district and school support staffs to adequately communicate to parents or guardians information common to all school sites, including general guidelines for enforcement of the dress code policy and requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE).

B. Each school shall communicate to parents or guardians information specific to the individual school sites, including:

1. Types and colors of dress code;
2. Optional articles of attire, if any;
3. Expectations for PPE
4. Compliance measures to be employed.

C. The means by which this information is communicated shall include one or more of the following: school newsletters, email, parent forums, telephonic notification or through use of a telephone hotline, PTA meetings and newsletters, parent advisory meetings, television, radio, and/or newspaper announcements, posters displayed at school and in the community.

### **Financial Considerations**

A. No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing ~~to wear a uniform~~ comply with dress code expectations by reason of legitimate financial hardship.

B. With the commencement of the 1998-1999 school year, each school shall develop a procedure and criteria to identify families which may be applicable to the above.

C. The district shall compile and maintain a list of community agencies, school clothing retailers, organizations and individuals willing to assist families in need. The district shall also promulgate procedures to link identified resources with participating schools.

### **Compliance Measures**

A. Since the intent of the policy is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in uniform compliance with dress code expectations or the wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) from receiving the education to which he/she is entitled, no student shall be suspended from school, expelled from school or receive a lowered academic grade as a result of not complying with the policy. In the case of personal protective equipment for students and when allowed by state statute, executive order, or by state-sanctioned guidance, a student refusing to comply with PPE expectations may be offered an at-home learning opportunity in place of in-person instruction. In-person instruction will only be offered after other disciplinary and non-disciplinary efforts at compliance have failed.

B. Each school shall develop incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with the dress code policy. Each school should strive to achieve full compliance through use of incentives and positive reinforcement measures. In addition, schools shall communicate with parents or guardians so that expectations, rationale and benefits are fully understood by the student and his/her family.

C. No student shall be considered noncompliant with the policy in the following instances:

1. When noncompliance derives from financial hardship.
2. When a student wears a button, armband or other accouterment to exercise the right to freedom of expression, unless the button, armband or other accouterment signifies or is related to gangs, gang membership or gang activity.
3. When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.
4. When wearing a school uniform complying with the dress code expectations violates a student's sincerely held religious belief.
5. When a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) has secured an exemption from the dress code policy. Exemptions to PPE requirements will be made only with written verification from a licensed medical provider that compliance would be harmful or dangerous to the student.

D. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) desires to exempt his/her child from the dress code policy, the, parent(s) or guardian(s) must observe the following procedure:

1. Complete a Request for Exemption from the Student Dress Code Requirement Form. The parent(s) or guardian(s) may obtain a form at the student's school site or Central Office.
2. Complete the application in full and submit to the student's school office.
3. Meeting with the designated administrator to discuss the dress code policy and the nature of the parent(s) or guardian(s)'s objections to the policy. The purposes of this

meeting include (a) ensuring that the parent(s) or guardian(s) understand the reasons for and goals of the dress code policy; (b) verifying the accuracy of the information on the application and (c) preventing fraud or misrepresentation.

4. Receive authorized exemption, in writing, from the school Principal.

**Regulation originally approved: May 26, 1998**

**Regulation amended and reapproved: February 11, 2002**

**Regulation revised: XXX**

**Students****Tardy****Released Time**

All students are expected to attend school for the full day schools are in session. No student shall be allowed to leave the school grounds at any time without (1) written permission from the parents or guardians, and (2) the Principal's or his/her designee's authorization. Nor shall any child enrolled in grades pre-kindergarten through eight be dismissed except in care of a parent, guardian or known authorized person.

Early dismissal, late arrival, or open campus privileges for high school students may be permitted ~~only~~ for grade twelve students and/or those enrolled in specialized programs on those days which require leaving school prior to the close of the regular school day, ~~and~~ for students confronted with extraordinary circumstances, or as allowed by the Superintendent in addressing requirements or guidelines from federal, state, or local health officials. Appeals may be made to the Superintendent who is authorized to waive this restriction for exceptional cases with just cause.

**Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes**

10-184 Duties of Parents

10-199 through 10-202d Attendance, Truancy in General

46b-149 Family with Service Needs I Campbell vs.

New Milford, 193 Conn 93 (1984)

**Policy originally adopted: February 25, 1991**

**Policy readopted: February 11, 2002**

**Students****Released Time for High School Students****Early Dismissal, Late Arrival, Open Campus**

1. Generally, any student of the high school who desires the privilege of early dismissal from school must present to the Principal or Assistant Principal a written authorized request for

same signed by his/her parent/guardian, explaining thereon the need for such early dismissal. Each such request shall be granted or denied by the administrator, who has full authority to do so, on the basis of the reasons stated.

2. Any high school student enrolled in any of the school sponsored and supervised work-study programs requiring early dismissal shall be so dismissed in accordance with the Board approved policy established for such programs.

3. Changes in schedules to allow early release will not be granted.

4. Students shall not loiter in the school or on school grounds after early dismissal. Students awaiting school bus transportation must report to and remain in study hall.

5. Students abusing the privilege of early dismissal or causing trouble in town shall be deprived of the privilege. The length of privilege denial is to be determined by the Principal or his/her designee.

6. Any student may be required to remain in school on any given day for make-up work, for discipline reasons and for special school programs that occur at the end of the school day.

**Regulation originally approved: February 25, 1991**

**Regulation reapproved: February 11, 2002**

1:1 Chromebook Issued Options ("BYOC: Bring Your Own Chromebook)

Structure	Optional Insurance (Individual with carrier) District issued with or without optional insurance or BYOC	Mandatory Insurance (Fleet with a carrier) District issued mandatory insurance or BYOC	Mandatory User Fee (Self Insurance) District issued for a fee or BYOC	No Insurance District issued without insurance or BYOC
Frns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Device damage optionally covered</li> <li>-No need for sliding scale of cost</li> <li>-Clearly defines liabilities for cost</li> <li>-Families have stake in cost and care of device</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Device damage covered universally</li> <li>-Clearly defines liability for costs</li> <li>-Families have stake in cost and care of device</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Generates a BOE fund to defray costs of repair or replacement</li> <li>-Lower cost to families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No cost to parent</li> <li>-Less administrative management</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pursuing repayment of costs when insurance is not purchased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Requires sliding scale of costs (BOE Defrays)</li> <li>-Internal management of collecting money and shipping/receiving repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Minimal family stake in cost and care of device</li> <li>-Internally managing self insurance with no additional staff</li> <li>-Requires sliding scale of cost</li> <li>-Need to design our own policy limitations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No stake in cost and care of device</li> <li>-Pursuing repayment of costs when insurance is not purchased</li> </ul>
BOE Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-None outside of the initial cost of the devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Defrayment of sliding scale of insurance</li> <li>-BOE "fronts" cost of insurance policy (\$28-\$37 per device)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Any Costs above self insurance fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Coverage of all repairs/loss if parent defaults on responsibility to pay</li> </ul>
Parent Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Optional \$57-67</li> <li>-Repair or full replacement cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-\$40 Insurance fee</li> <li>-Uncovered repairs or full replacement cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-\$25 User Fee</li> <li>-Uncovered repairs or full replacement cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Repair or full replacement cost</li> </ul>

