

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: AC, JCCA, JCCA-RA, JCD, JCDA, JCDA-RA

Responsible Office: OFFICE OF STUDENT AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS, DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION
AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, DIVISION OF SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOLS

STUDENT ATTIRE AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE

A. PURPOSE

To establish expectations for students regarding their attire and personal appearance.

B. BACKGROUND

Students have the responsibility to wear attire and to arrange their personal appearance in a manner which is healthy, safe, and does not pose a disruption to the educational process. Some schools have established school uniform requirements following the provisions of Policy JCDA and Regulation JCDA-RA – School Uniforms.

C. PROCEDURES

1. Requirements

- a. Student appearance shall be consistent with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) *Code of Student Conduct*. Students are prohibited from wearing clothing, hats, jewelry, book bags, or other articles of personal appearance which cause a disruption to the educational process or school environment, or which create a health and safety hazard. Students are expected to demonstrate decorum appropriate to the standards of an academic institution.
- b. Students shall wear:
 - i. A top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, dress, etc.);
 - ii. A bottom (pants, athletic pants, shorts, skirt, dress, leggings, etc.); and
 - iii. Shoes.
- c. Students may wear:
 - i. Hats, including religious headwear;

- ii. Hoodie sweatshirts without the hood raised;
 - iii. Fitted pants including leggings, yoga pants, and skinny jeans;
 - iv. Ripped jeans;
 - v. Tank tops with straps, including spaghetti straps and halter tops; and
 - vi. Medical masks, as appropriate, required, or by choice.
- d. Students may not wear:
- i. Attire depicting or describing violent language or images;
 - ii. Attire depicting or describing images or language portraying weapons, drugs or drug paraphernalia, alcohol, nicotine products, illegal items, or illegal activities, or use of the same;
 - iii. Attire depicting or describing hate speech, threats, obscenity, profanity, or pornography;
 - iv. Attire promoting gang colors, gang affiliation, gang initiation, or gang-related signs;
 - v. Attire depicting or describing images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class;
 - vi. Visible underwear. Visible waistbands or straps on underwear worn under clothing are not a violation;
 - vii. Bathing suits (except where required for participation in a course or school activity);
 - viii. Helmets, hats, or headwear that obscures the face or profile (except where such is worn as a religious observance or for medical purposes);
 - ix. Clothing that intentionally shows private parts (nipples, genitals, or buttocks). Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material; and
 - x. Clothing or accessories that may endanger the student or others, such as spikes.

- e. Tribal Regalia
 - i. Traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance may not be prohibited at AACPS public events. Public events include award ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, and Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) meetings.

2. Application

- a. This regulation applies to all students in all school buildings during the regular school day and at such other times and locations as designated by the principal.
- b. This regulation applies to all students at all times on all Board property, including in school buildings and on school grounds; on all school buses and other school vehicles; and at all school, school-related, or AACPS-sponsored activities, including school field trips and school sporting events, whether such activities are held on school property or at locations off school property, including private businesses or commercial establishments.
- c. This regulation permits additional student attire requirements when necessary to ensure safety and the ability to fully participate in certain academic settings, including physical activity, sports, science, or career and technical education courses. Additionally, this regulation allows for reasonable variation in required student attire for participation in activities such as swimming or gymnastics, or fine arts programming. Courses that include attire as a part of the curriculum, including professionalism, public speaking, job readiness, and fine arts performances, may include assignment-specific dress requirements.

3. Enforcement

- a. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall ensure that all staff are informed regarding application and enforcement of this policy and regulation.
- b. The dress code policy shall be made available to students and parents/guardians through the AACPS website and AACPS *Code of Student Conduct*.
- c. The principal or principal's designee shall be responsible for the enforcement of the accompanying policy, this regulation, and the AACPS *Code of Student Conduct*.

Regulation History: Issued 02/03/16; Revised 08/20/25

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal Reference: None