

## Current Language

### **VIII. DRESS CODE GUIDELINES**

**Rationale:** Student dress should reflect the prevailing standard of the West Lafayette School Corporation and its community where health and safety, common decency, respect, and behavior expectations are met.

**Rules:** Students will be considered in violation of the dress code guidelines if their apparel is found to be disruptive to the educational process, embarrassing, or indecent in the opinion of faculty or administration.

**Consequences:** Students found to be in violation of this section will be subject to a range of disciplinary actions including warning, detention, suspension, and expulsion (Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion, items 25, 28, 29)

## Revised language 2023-2024

**Rationale:** The purpose of the dress code is to provide guidance to students and parents regarding appropriate attire for school and school functions. The dress code is a primary means to teach students the importance of a professional appearance which can help promote self-esteem and self-respect. Our dress code will encourage and reflect a multicultural community focused on academic excellence and identity development among a diverse student body. Our guiding principles for the dress code are based on attire that is workplace appropriate and enables a safe and distraction-free group learning environment. Having students practice the distinction between workplace and recreational dress while at school is just one avenue to support long-term success that is embodied in the school's mission statement.

**Rules:** In keeping with the stated rationale, at school or when attending school functions, students are expected to wear:

- A shirt with opaque, non-see-through, fabric covering the body in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms, AND
- Pants/jeans/skirt or the equivalent (for example, but not limited to, sweatpants, leggings, a dress, or shorts) AND
- Shoes or the equivalent (for example: shoes, boots, sandals, slides, or similar footwear; bare feet are not allowed)

**Consequences:** Per the student COC, students found to be in violation of the dress code will be subject to a range of disciplinary actions, including warnings, detention, suspension, and expulsion (Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion, items 16,17,27,30,31).

### Process used to consider CofC revisions

- **January**– seek staff topics for possible revisions to the Student Code of Conduct.
- Staff who responded asked for revisions to the section on “Dress Code”.
- **February**– administrators met with Student Council at a their regular meeting and shared that faculty had asked asked to review dress code. Representatives were asked to talk with peers and provide feedback/ideas. SC created a google doc and some students also met with administration to share thoughts.
- Code of Conduct review committee was formed with faculty, administrative, and student representatives. The committee was given 3 possible drafts of “dress code” policies After discussion, editing and modifications, the committee came to a consensus on a language changes to recommend for the new school year.
- Administrators met again with Student Council to present and discuss proposed language. SC consensus was that the changes were reasonable and also improved clarity from the existing language. Students liked that the language changes were 1. Non-threatening, 2. Appreciated that the new rationale/language recognizes that there is a path within a diverse school community to have boundaries that promote “appropriate educational/professional dress”.
- **March**– The revised policy was presented and discussed at a school faculty meeting with the staff consensus that changes were appropriate, reasonable, and something that they expressed that they could much more easily support within their classrooms (unlike current language that is vague and for some staff is not something they feel comfortable supporting or enforcing).
- With agreement among the faculty the administration shared the proposed new language with IASB attorneys to ask for a legal review. IASB reported back to administration the language change is appropriate and falls within the intent of Indiana Code on these matters.
- **April**– request Board approval