



METROPOLITAN  
**Nashville**  
 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Metro Nashville Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment. In addition, a proper learning atmosphere is essential for the education of each student.

MNPS Standard School Attire is an effective strategy to promote enhanced student appearance and behavior, which are key ingredients of a positive learning environment in which student safety and achievement are the highest priorities.

***Definition of Standard School Attire***

**Acceptable Attire in all Metro Schools**

- A) Pants, shorts, capri pants, skirts, skorts or jumpers in the colors of navy blue, black or any shade of khaki.
- B) Shirts with short or long sleeves and a collar (polo, dress-style with or without buttons, or turtleneck), in the solid colors of white or navy blue.
- C) All shirts should be properly buttoned and tucked inside pants, shorts, skorts or skirts.

**Acceptable Attire in Individual Metro Schools**

In addition to the districtwide Standard School Attire, individual schools may designate up to four additional solid colors for acceptable styles of shirts.

***Implementation Details***

Students' dress and grooming will be clean and neat. Clothes and appearance must be safe and not disruptive to the educational process.

**Cabinet Sponsor**

Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services,  
 Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

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***Revision History***

***Review***  
 Annually

### **General Requirements**

1. The Standard School Attire policy will be in effect during both the school year and summer program.
2. Students will wear clothing of appropriate size. Appropriate sizes are defined as no more than one size smaller or one size larger than the student's actual clothing size. Pants, shorts, capri pants, skorts or skirts must fit at the waist and must not sag.
3. The district will not require specific brands of clothing. No writing is allowed on clothing except logos or manufacturer trademarks which may be no larger than two inches. School logos are permitted and are not limited in size.
4. All clothing must be hemmed. No drawstrings, cut-offs or rolled-up cuffs are allowed on pants, capri pants, shorts or skirts.

### **Pants, shorts, capri pants, skirts, skorts, jumpers or dresses**

1. Full-length pants, cropped pants, and straight-legged capri pants are permitted. Pants, capri pants, and shorts must be dress style or casual-dress style (e.g., Dockers®). Pants must be straight-leg or boot-cut.
2. Pants, shorts, skirts and skorts with elastic waistbands must be worn at the waist and do not require a belt. All other pants, shorts, skirts and skorts must be worn at the waist, and those with belt loops must be worn with a belt.
3. Shorts, jumpers, dresses, skirts or skorts must extend below the fingertip.

### **Shirts and tops**

1. Dresses with short or long sleeves and a collar (polo, dress-style or turtleneck) in the district- or school-approved solid colors are acceptable.
2. All blouses and shirts should be properly buttoned and tucked inside pants or skirts. Chests and midribs must be covered.
3. T-shirts with or without sleeves may be worn as undergarments. They must be solid white, navy blue or one of the additional solid colors approved by the school and may not display any writing, pictures or images.

### ***Additional Clothing***

A single blazer, suit jacket, vest, sweater, or cardigan is permitted as a garment that may be worn over the Standard Attire top. These garments must be sized according to the General Requirements section of this policy. The garments must also be in one of the district- or school-approved solid colors and must be worn over a shirt with a collar.

### ***Attire for Special Occasions***

1. The principals of individual schools may allow exceptions to the Standard School Attire policy for schoolwide activities up to 10 days per year. Such exceptions would include a particular mode of attire for special occasion days such as School Spirit Week or for particular school-sponsored or school-related activities during the course of the school day.
2. In addition, principals will have the authority to approve occasional variations from Standard School Attire for particular groups of students. For example, athletic team members or cheerleaders may wear their sports-top layered over a collared or turtleneck shirt, or members of school clubs may wear club-related or school-sponsored T-shirts over a collared or turtleneck shirt. Such attire will be tucked in at the waist whenever practical as determined by the principal. Standard Attire pants, shorts, skirts, capri pants or skorts must be worn at all times.

### ***Footwear***

Footwear must be worn at all times. Laces on shoes or sneakers must be tied. No house shoes are allowed.

### ***Assistance with Standard School Attire***

The principal of each school will establish procedures and maintain a minimum inventory of required student clothing to provide emergency clothing to students who do not have the required Standard Attire. Funding to support this resource may be drawn from community donations and other sources available to the school.

In addition, MNPS will coordinate with schools, businesses, religious organizations and community groups to open clothing banks for receipt of donated School Attire. While MNPS is not required to provide such Attire to students because of low-income status, the donated items will be made available at no cost to students who demonstrate financial need. The identity of the child or family accessing the source because of their financial status will not be disclosed.

***Standard School Attire Prohibitions***

1. Denim jeans of any color, “cargo” shorts or pants, and hooded sweatshirts are not permissible. This restriction does not apply to after-school activities such as athletic events.
2. Blouses or shirts without buttons along the front opening are not acceptable as the primary Standard Attire shirt.
3. Outerwear such as raincoats, windbreakers and cold-weather jackets and coats may not be worn in the school.
4. Torn clothing is prohibited. In addition, no see-through clothing is to be worn.
5. Logos or manufacturers' trademarks with writing or images of substances that are illegal for teens (i.e., drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) or are otherwise offensive, lewd, indecent, vulgar, obscene, profane, gang-related or constitute racial or ethnic slurs may not be worn.
6. Tattoos that display drugs, alcohol or tobacco products, or gang- or sex-related words or images must not be seen at anytime.
7. Chains, spiked accessories and belt buckles with concealed weapons are not permissible. Belts may not hang down as a “tail” from the belt loop.
8. Head coverings such as bandanas, scarves, sweatbands, caps, do-rags, or hairnets are not to be worn or seen during school time or school functions.

***Standard School Attire Provisions***

1. Students participating in the JROTC program of their school may wear their JROTC uniform on days designated by the school.
2. Approved head coverings worn as part of a student’s bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

## **Compliance**

School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with Standard School Attire requirements. However, when a student fails to comply with the School Attire policy, discipline is appropriate. The following discipline procedures will apply:

### **First Offense**

1. A student whose clothing or accessories violate the Standard Attire policy may be removed from class with a chance to correct and return to class.
2. Such correction may include use of school-provided clothing, if available, until the end of the school day. If such correction is not obtained, the student may be removed to in-school suspension either for the remainder of the day or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school.
3. The infraction will be communicated to the parent or guardian.

### **Second Offense**

1. One day of in-school suspension.
2. For elementary schools or in unusual situations, the in-school suspension may take place in an alternative setting as determined by the principal.
3. The infraction will be communicated to the parent or guardian.

### **Third Offense**

1. One day of in-school suspension.
2. An "overnight" or "provisional" suspension. This one-day, out-of-school suspension is waived if parents accompany the student to the school the following morning for a conference with the principal or his/her designee.
3. The infraction will be communicated to the parent or guardian.

### **Subsequent and Repeated Infractions**

Repeated violations of the Standard School Attire policy will be treated as disruptive behavior and/or defiance of school authority. These violations may result in out-of-school suspensions as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Due Process.

### **Academic Consequences**

In-school suspension for violation of the Standard School Attire policy will not affect a student's academic standing.

### **Fresh Start**

Violations of the Standard School Attire policy will not carry over from the previous semester or school year.

### ***Standard School Attire Exemption Process***

Schools will provide reasonable accommodation to students whose bona fide religious belief, medical condition or disability requires special clothing.

To request such accommodation:

- Parents must obtain a copy of this policy and an exemption form from their school or the Customer Service Center. The exemption form must be completed by the parent and returned to the school.
- The principal of the school will review the exemption request. The parent will be notified in writing of the status of the request within 10 days.
- To appeal, the parent may request a meeting with the principal. Based upon the outcome of that meeting, the principal will notify the parent in writing of the status of the request within five days.
- A further appeal may be made to the Director of Schools pursuant to DSOP 0110.

District or campus personnel will not discriminate against any student who has been exempted from the mandatory use of Standard School Attire because of objections based on bona fide religious, medical or disability needs.

### ***Authority of MNPS***

The District reserves the right to modify this policy as necessary. The District and individual schools reserve the right to determine what may be disruptive and unsafe.

### ***References/Authority***

TCA § 49-1-302

TCA § 49-6-4215

DSOP 0110 – Complaints