



METROPOLITAN
Nashville
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

MNPS Standard School Attire (SSA) 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 (Unless school is exempt from SSA)

- 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 button, or turtleneck), in the solid colors or 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 district wide 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.

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. Approximate 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.

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Review

Annually

Personal Appearance and Dress Code
SP 6.114

4. All clothing must be hemmed. No drawstrings, cut-offs or rolled-up cuffs are allowed on pants, capri pants, shorts or skirts.
5. Pre-K through 2nd grade are exempted from wearing a belt.

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.
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 midriffs 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. Fleece fabric should be allowed only for sweaters and lightweight jackets to be worn indoors. 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 school wide 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. 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 or 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 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 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 manufacturer's 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 any time.
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 the 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 (see attached chart also):

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/guardian 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.

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- To appeal, the parent may request a meeting with the principal. Based on the outcome of that meeting, the principal will notify the parent in writing within five (5) days.
- A further appeal may be made to the Director of Schools.

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

Standard School Attire Discipline Protocol

First Day of School

Letter given to all students out of compliance

Remainder of Semester

First Offense

Chance to correct

If not – in-school suspension

Letter to parent/guardian (given to student)

Second Offense

One day of in-school suspension

Letter to parent or guardian (given to student)

Third Offense

One day of in-school suspension

Provisional one-day out-of-school suspension

(This OSS is waived if the parent/guardian arrives with the student the next morning for a conference – and if the student is in Standard Attire)

Letter to parent/guardian (given to student)

Further offenses will be addressed in one of the following ways:

<u>If there is NO out-of-school suspension</u>	<u>If there IS out-of-school suspension</u>
Fourth Offense One day of in-school suspension Provisional one-day out-of-school suspension Letter to parent/guardian (given to student)	Fourth Offense Two days out-of-school suspension Letter to parent/guardian (mailed home)
Fifth Offense Suspension One day of in-school suspension Provisional one-day out-of-school suspension Letter to parent/guardian (given to student)	Fifth Offense Three days out-of-school Letter to parent/guardian (mailed home)
Sixth Offense Two day summary suspension Contact Discipline Office	Sixth Offense Two-day summary suspension Contact Discipline Office