

STUDENT DRESS

In order to maintain an environment conducive to the education process, the Old Saybrook Board of Education (the“Board”) will enforce the following dress practices during the academic school day.

- A. No large, long, oversized or heavy outerwear will be worn, carried or kept in the classroom during regular school hours because they may create an opportunity to conceal a dangerous or contraband item and they may create a tripping hazard for the wearer or others.
- B. Approved coverings worn as part of a student’s religious practice or belief, or as required or permitted in conjunction with school district health and safety protocols, shall not be prohibited under this policy. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit protective hairstyles. “Protective hairstyles” include, but are not limited to, wigs, headwraps, and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros, and afro puffs.
- C. Footwear which marks floors or is a safety hazard is prohibited.
- D. Sunglasses, whether worn or carried, unless required pursuant to a documented medical issue are prohibited because they hide too much of the wearer’s face and this is a campus security concern.
- E. Oversized metal belt buckles, belts with large pieces of metal on them, spiked or studded clothing items, oversized multi-finger rings that are or are similar to brass knuckles or any other item that could present an accident hazard to the wearer or others or may be used to intentionally harm someone are prohibited.
- F. Attire or accessories that contain vulgarity or that contain overly offensive, or disruptive writing or pictures which are likely to disrupt the educational environment.
- G. Attire that depicts, suggests or incites violence so as to disrupt the educational environment or causes others to be intimidated by fear of violence or call others to act violently are prohibited.
- H. Attire or accessories that depict logos or emblems that encourage the use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- I. Students are required to dress in a way that is respectful of themselves, the other students and the adults in the building. The standards for student dress in school are higher than they are for more casual settings. Attire that is comfortable, safe and practical is the minimum standard. Overly revealing, ill-fitting (too small or overly large) see-through clothing or clothing that does not cover the body of the wearer is not

permitted. Shorts and skirts may be worn as long as they do not go above the mid-thigh. Tops must cover the torso.

Students who fail to comply with the Board policy and regulations conferring student dress will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion in accordance with the Board's policy on student discipline.

The Administration of each school has the right to pause the privileges to wear items identified as permissible in this policy if the wearer has refused to comply or has repeatedly failed to comply with the dress code rules. Further, the administration may pause the privileges of all students in the school in response to a perceived or real threat, health concerns or directives or wide-spread misuse of dress code freedoms defined in this policy.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51 (definition of protective hairstyles)

STUDENT DRESS REGULATIONS

Administrators may modify these regulations at any time in order to ensure the safety of students and staff or to address weather-related concerns or student behaviors as long as the changes are not arbitrarily enforced.

Old Saybrook High School

- A. Smaller jackets and sweaters that can easily be kept in the wearer's personal space or hung on the back of a chair without impeding travel between and among student desks may be worn. Hoodies, sweatshirts, fleeces, and pullovers may be worn although the wearing of hoods is not permitted inside the school buildings because of concerns about campus security.
- B. For security and safety purposes, only head coverings that allow others to see the wearer's face may be worn as long as they are not large enough to obstruct the view of others around the wearer. Costume masks or any item that covers the face are prohibited. Hats may not be worn while masks are required at schools since too much of the wearer's face would be covered. Administration reserves the right to prohibit any student from wearing a hat if not being worn in a manner that shows a student's face.
- C. Items that do not fit the definition of allowed items in A. and B. of the policy or added here in the regulations must be secured in the student's locker or other storage areas before school. Items not stored will be confiscated by the administration.
- D. Backpacks and/or book bags are permitted to be carried between classes, but shall not obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors so as not to pose a tripping, fire or emergency egress passage hazard.

Old Saybrook Middle School

In addition to the policy's permissive and restrictive language the following applies:

- A. No hats unless earned or part of a special day
- B. Coats must be kept in lockers (because of congestion in classrooms unless exceptions are announced by the classroom teacher or administration to accommodate during cold weather
- C. Backpacks must be kept in lockers (because of congestion in classrooms)

Goodwin Elementary School

In addition to the policy's permissive and restrictive language, the following applies:

- A. No hats
- B. All coats and bags are hung on hooks upon entering the classroom