

# **Savannah-Chatham Co. Schools**

## **Policy JCDB-R(1): Student Dress Code**

The District requires all students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 to wear a school uniform as identified by the school which they attend or will attend.

Each school is to establish a School Uniform Committee. This committee is charged with the following determining the specific colors for student uniforms that are consistent with the dress code policy JCDB; writing and implementing a plan regarding funding sources for providing uniforms for economically disadvantaged students; developing incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance; and submitting a yearly report each May for the first three years of implementation to the Board detailing success and difficulties experienced in implementing and complying with the uniform policy.

The uniform committee must notify parents and students of the school uniform requirements. Notices for each school year shall be provided in May of the preceding school year.

The school uniform committee shall follow the guidelines outlined below:

With the understanding that a student's behavior is influenced by the way the student is dressed and with the understanding that no student should dress in a manner that is disruptive or has an adverse effect on school activities, the following mandatory uniform standards for student attire have been developed. Students are expected to dress in the school uniform during the school day and during school related activities. The school principal/site administrator will make the final determination of whether a student's attire or appearance conflicts with these standards. The school will loan students uniforms when necessary if available; however, the appropriate consequences will be administered for dress code violations.

All students (except those deemed exempt) must adhere to the following dress code:

### **Elementary and Secondary**

- All schools will have khaki pants/bottoms and white tops. The uniform committee may choose one additional color pants/bottoms and one additional top color. Plaid skirts and jumpers may be worn.
- Solid navy, black, khaki or plaid (as specified by each school uniform committee) shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, capri pants or pants/slacks (no knit pants, jogging or cargo pants; no zippers or pockets on pant legs). Pants/slacks must be belted and made of standard

uniform material (cotton and/or twill). Pants/slacks must be of appropriate size, be worn at the natural waist, and not drag the floor. Pants should not be too tight. No denim jeans, skirts, etc. Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers must be no shorter than three inches above the knee. Pants/slacks, skirts, skorts, shorts and jumpers must have a finished hem.

- Tops must be solid white and other solid color(s) as selected by each school uniform committee. Tops may be polo-style shirts, collared blouses or turtlenecks. Shirts may have the school insignia, if one is available, but no other ornamentation is permitted. Tops must not expose any of the midriff or lower back. Fishnet tops, halter tops, tube tops, strapless tops, tanks tops, spaghetti straps and other forms of transparent or revealing clothing are prohibited and should not be visible at any time. Oversized tops may not be worn.
- All shoes must be enclosed and fastened/tied properly.
- Tights, leggings hose, or socks may be worn under an appropriate length skirt or dress (no shorter than three inches above the knee). Tights and socks must be solid navy, black or white with no design. Hose without design may be worn. Tights or leggings may not be worn as an outer garment.
- Solid colored sweaters, vests or sweatshirts may be worn over uniform shirts. Hooded sweatshirts are not allowed at any time.
- No hats, caps, or sunglasses may be worn in the building.
- Coats and jackets must be worn open while in the building.
- Extreme hair color/style that causes a disruption, or interferes with the learning environment will not be allowed.
- Body piercing that causes a disruption, or interferes with the learning environment will not be allowed.
- Belts must be worn if pants, skirts, skorts or shorts have belt loops. Belts must be solid navy, black or brown and worn inside the belt loops. Belt buckles must not be oversized, computerized or have any writing that is considered offensive.
- No oversized/baggy garments.

- No oversized jewelry and/or accessories with inappropriate emblems and/or writing may be worn.
- Only white T-shirts may be worn under uniform shirts.
- Undergarments must not be visible.
- School ID badges must be worn and visibly displayed while on campus and while attending all school sponsored field trips (grades 6 through 12).
- Handbags, purses, pocketbooks, and similar items must be no larger than 8.5 X 11 inches (size of a regular sheet of paper), 3 to 4 inches thick and must not be large enough to contain a regular sized textbook.
- All book bags, tote bags, backpacks, athletic bags and all other similar items must have the contents clearly visible (see-through clear plastic or mesh). Any bag needed for after school events, which is not mesh or clear plastic, must be checked in at the beginning of the day and left with the student's teacher or with the student's coach during the school day.

Students assigned to alternative school sites and/or program other than their home school will wear the uniform consistent with the dress code of that site.

**Acceptable dress for non-uniform days will be consistent with the dress code.**

1. School ID badges must be worn and visibly displayed while on campus and while attending all school sponsored field trips (grades 6 through 12).
2. Body piercing that causes a disruption, or interferes with the learning environment will not be allowed.
3. Tops must not expose any of the midriff or lower back. Fishnet tops, halter tops, tube tops, strapless tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps and other forms of transparent or revealing clothing are prohibited and should not be visible at any time.
4. Pants must be of appropriate size, be worn at the natural waist, and not drag the floor. Belts, if worn, must be buckled.

5. Shorts, skirts, jumpers and dresses must have a finished hem and extend to the length of the tip of the longest extended finger when student is standing upright with hands by his/her side.
6. Undergarments must not be visible.
7. All book bags, tote bags, backpacks, athletic bags and all other similar items must have the contents clearly visible (see through clear plastic or mesh). Any bag needed for after school events, which is not mesh or clear plastic, must be checked in at the beginning of the day and left with the student's teacher or with the student's coach during the school day.
8. Non-uniform days are not to exceed 12 days in the school year. This includes "Spirit Week". The principal will have final approval of attire during non-uniform days.
9. On game days, athletes may wear school colored blazers with ties, game jerseys with uniform pants or other school-provided athletic wear with appropriate socks and shoes.
10. On game days, cheerleaders or other auxiliary groups may wear their uniforms with coordinating pants of the appropriate length and appropriate socks and shoes.

### **Procedures for Exemption**

Parents or guardians may request an exemption from a mandatory school uniform program for medical, religious, or other justifiable reasons. A request for an exemption must be made within 10 operational days of the beginning of the school year. (Note: The term, "operational days," is defined as days that schools are in session.) Medical exemption requests must be signed by a medical doctor.

1. A written request for an exemption must be submitted to the school principal using the Application for Exemption Form that can be obtained from the school. The request must be completed truthfully and correctly and signed by a physician if the request is for medical reasons.
2. The school principal or his/her designee must meet with the parents or guardians within five operational days. The principal will discuss the school uniform policy and verify the accuracy of the information on the Exemption Form.
3. The parents or guardians will be notified in writing of the outcome of the conference within three operational days. The principal will note the finding to grant or deny the

request on the application, sign off on the application and forward a copy to the superintendent or his/her designee.

4. The superintendent or his/her designee will affirm or deny the principal's decision. If the parent or guardian does not agree with the decision, they have a right to appeal to the Board within five operational days.
5. Exemptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

**No student will be considered non-compliant for the following reasons:**

1. An exemption has been established or is being appealed.
2. The principal has established "non-uniform" day.
3. A student is on campus outside of normal school hours.
4. A student wears a button, armband or other accouterment to exercise a constitutionally protected right to freedom of expression. Buttons, armbands or other accouterment that signifies or is related to gangs, gang membership or gang activity or is disruptive to school safety and discipline are prohibited.
5. A student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.

**Compliance/Disciplinary Measures**

Schools staff should strive for full compliance using positive reinforcement. Disciplinary actions should only be used when all positive measures have been exhausted.

Schools staff should use progressive discipline to enforce the dress code. Refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for Success.