

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY**I. Purpose**

The ECU Laboratory School believes a safe and disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a high performing school. The implementation of school uniforms will help minimize disruptive behavior, promote respect for oneself and others, build school/community spirit, and, more significantly, help to maintain high academic standards. The Lab School also feels that wearing of uniforms by students will help lessen the impact of socioeconomic differences. In addition, it allows for identification of intruders on campus and encourages students to concentrate on learning rather than on what they are wearing.

II. Information Dissemination

On a yearly basis, Lab School officials will communicate with parents/guardians information concerning the uniform policy by using one or more of the following: newsletters, parent forums, school websites, Parent Advisory Council meetings, TV and radio announcements, flyers and posters.

III. Appearance

In addition to being required to wear school uniforms, all students are to be groomed and dressed appropriately for school and school activities. A student's dress and/or appearance shall:

1. Support, not disrupt, the learning environment
2. Constitute no threat to health or safety
3. Be tasteful and unable to be construed as provocative or obscene
4. Reflect practices of good hygiene and cleanliness

IV. Reasonable consideration shall be made for those students who, because of a sincerely held religious belief or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. The waiver request shall be in writing from the parent or guardian and approved by the principal and/or principal's designee on an annual basis. In considering a waiver request, the principal and/or principal's designee have the right to request additional documentation from medical officials and/or religious leaders.

V. Reasonable accommodation shall be made by the principal for students involved in special duties, activities, or projects approved by the Lab School. This would include but not be limited to athletics, career and technical education, P.E. classes, special events, and other activities that require non-conforming dress on a school campus during a school-sponsored event.

VI. Financial Considerations

Parents and/or guardians who have concerns about the affordability of a school uniform should contact the principal. The principal will assist the family with identifying community resources.

VII. School Uniform

The principal and/or principal's designee will implement the school uniform and appearance policy in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate.

Good judgment in considering issues such as age, developmental stages, and body type are expected of all students, parents, and guardians in the selection of school attire and appearance. The manner of a student's wear of the school uniform shall be neat, clean, properly fitted, age-appropriate and suitable for the learning environment.

Requirements

A. Shirts

1. Shirts must be solid white, purple, or gold/yellow.
2. Students must wear long or short-sleeved shirts with a collar. Shirts may have one or two chest pockets.
3. With the exception of small manufacturer's logos or school approved logos, shirts may not have insignias, logos, labels, words, or pictures. Shirts with school approved logos must have collars.
4. Shirts shall be long enough to cover the midriff when sitting or standing. Furthermore, shirts must cover the chest and back so the chest and the back of the body are not inappropriately exposed.
5. Undergarments may not be visible at any time. Students may wear T-shirts or camisoles which are plain white, purple or gold/yellow.
6. No see-through or mesh clothing that will reveal the body or will reveal undergarments shall be allowed.
7. Clothing shall be worn appropriately (correctly sized; not inside-out or backwards; no rolled up pants legs, etc.).

B. Pants, Skirts, Skorts, Jumpers, Capri Length Pants, Shorts

1. Colors: solid khaki, black, or navy.

2. Denim is permitted but must be solid blue, black or khaki with no holes or cuts.
3. Must be free of graphics and embroidery. With the exception of small manufacturer's labels, they may not have insignias, logos, words, or pictures.
4. Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers shall be modest and of sufficient length. The length of these articles of clothing shall be no shorter than three inches above the top of the knee when standing.
5. No pants or shorts with pockets halfway down the legs.
6. Clothing must be appropriately sized. No baggy or sagging pants or shorts are allowed. No "low rise" clothing is allowed. Pants must be worn with the waistband at or above the hipbone.
7. Clothing shall be worn appropriately (not inside-out or backwards; no rolled up pants legs, etc.).
8. No see-through or mesh clothing that will reveal the body or will reveal undergarments shall be allowed.
9. If belts are worn, they must not be oversized and must be buckled.

C. Dresses

1. Dresses may be solid white, purple, gold/yellow, or khaki.
2. Denim dresses/jumpers are permitted in solid blue, black or khaki.
3. Students may wear long or short-sleeved dresses with a collar. Dresses may have one or two chest pockets.
4. With the exception small manufacturer's labels and of school approved logos, dresses may not have insignias, logos, labels, words, or pictures.
5. Dresses must cover the chest and back so the chest and the back of the body are not inappropriately exposed.
6. Dresses shall be modest and of sufficient length. The length of the dress shall be no shorter than three inches above the top of the knee when standing.
7. Undergarments may not be visible at any time. Students may wear T-shirts or camisoles which are plain white, purple, or gold/yellow
8. No see-through or mesh clothing that will reveal the body or will reveal undergarments shall be allowed.

D. Shoes

1. Shoes shall be worn at all times, and, as needed, shoes shall conform to special requirements (such as P.E. classes, science labs, etc.).
2. Shoes that have laces shall be laced and tied.
3. No bedroom shoes shall be allowed.

E. Outerwear

1. Students may wear plain sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, or vests including those made out of lightweight fleece material over school uniforms. ~~The items may be solid white, purple, or gold/yellow. Down vests and denim vests or jackets are not acceptable.~~
2. Light weight fleece jackets are allowed.
3. Hoodies and hooded jackets may not have the hood covering the head while in a school building. Violation of this requirement may result in not being allowed to wear a hoodie at school.
4. Sweaters and sweat shirts, with the exception of small manufacturer's labels or school approved logos, may not have insignias, logos, labels, words, or pictures.
5. Coats
 - a. Coats may not be worn inside the school building during the school day.
 - b. Coats may be worn during a class change if the student is exiting the building.
 - c. Coats may be worn to school and placed in the student's locker. If a locker is not available, it may be hung in the classroom or another location designated by the principal and/or the principal's designee.
 - d. The principal and/or the principal's designee may make an exception if the building/classroom is unusually cold.

6. School Spirit Wear

Principal-approved school spirit wear may be worn on special days (field trips, spirit days, etc.) as directed by the principal.

F. Other Clothing Items or Accessories.

1. Students may not wear large pendants or medallions.
2. No adornment is allowed that reasonably could be perceived as, or used as, a weapon (such as chains, spikes, etc.).
3. No gang-related clothing, accessories, symbols or intimidating manner of dress, as identified by local law enforcement agencies, are allowed.
4. No headwear and no sunglasses shall be worn inside school buildings.
5. No bandanas shall be allowed.
6. Solid color, pattern or stripe ties may be worn. They may not have any insignias, logos, labels, words, or pictures.

G. Other Uniform Requirements

Students are expected to be dressed according to the uniform standards at all times school is in session including the ECU Lab School Extended Day.

VIII. Enforcement

The principal and/or principal's designee shall ensure that the policy is enforced in a consistent manner and require the student and the student's parent or guardian to take appropriate action to remedy situations determined to be in conflict with this policy. Disciplinary action shall be taken for violation of the School Uniform and Appearance Policy in accordance with the ECU Lab School Code of Student Conduct. (ECU Lab School Policy 10.206 and Procedure 10.206)

Appropriate disciplinary actions for violations may include the following:

First Offense: Students shall be informed that they have violated the policy. They shall be given the opportunity to change into acceptable clothing by using available clothes at school or by calling a parent/guardian to bring clothes. If neither of these options is used, the students may be placed in in-school suspension or isolation for the remainder of the day.

Second Offense: A second infraction of the policy may be considered as defiance. In addition to the disciplinary actions available for a first offense, a parent/guardian conference may be held.

Third (and additional) Offenses: A third or additional infraction of the policy may be categorized as a Category I Offense as outlined in the ECU Laboratory School Code of Student Conduct (Policy 10.206 and Procedure 10.206-P), subject to the consequences outlined therein, including out-of-school suspension.

Disciplinary action may vary when a student has a record of other student conduct violations during the current school year.

Students who do not comply with the School Uniform and Appearance Policy also may be excluded from participating in certain school programs, including graduation ceremonies. Copies of the School Uniform and Appearance Policy shall be made available to students and parents.

Students new to ECU Laboratory School will be given a two week grace period from enrollment to obtain and wear the proper school uniforms.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390, -391

Approved Revision: 11-8-17