

Dear Parents,

One of the DeKalb County Board of Education and Superintendent's priorities for the 2009-2010 school year is to closely monitor student dress. During Spring semester the Superintendent commissioned a committee of parents, teachers, principals, counselors, and other district-level administrators to review and revise the dress code requirements as currently outlined in the Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. This was in response to concerns voiced from parents and school stakeholders about student dress. The Dress Code Committee determined that student dress can negatively or positively affect the school climate and academic learning environment. Additionally, the committee concluded that many students were not adhering to the district's dress code guidelines. The goal of the committee was to create dress code guidelines and consequences that will facilitate the district's continuous focus on teaching and learning. The revised guidelines were presented to the Superintendent in late April.

During the May 2009 Board of Education meeting, the Superintendent presented the final changes that would be added to the 2009-2010 Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for students who fail to adhere to the dress code guidelines. We solicit your support as we strive to enforce the dress code guidelines. Please refer to the new offenses listed below:

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The atmosphere of a school must be conducive to learning. A student's appearance can positively or negatively impact the climate of a school. Students must adhere to DeKalb School System dress code requirements. Students who fail to comply with the DeKalb School System dress code requirements, as enumerated below, may be charged with Offense #25 -Student Dress Code Violation (see page 28):

- Students are expected to follow all school rules governing safety in specialized programs that may require the wearing of protective clothing, safety glasses, or other similar requirements.
- Clothing or jewelry that disrupts the educational process or endangers the health or safety of other students, staff or visitors is prohibited.
- The wearing of clothing, insignia, symbols, or adornments worn or carried on or about a student which promote gangs, the use of controlled substances, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is prohibited.
- The wearing of clothing which shows offensive and/or vulgar words, pictures, diagrams, drawings, or includes words or phrases of a violent nature, a disruptive nature, a sexual nature, or words or phrases that are derogatory regarding a person's ethnic background, color, race, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited.

The wearing of pants below the waist line, bare midriffs, halter tops/tank tops, tops/blouses revealing cleavage, short shorts, net/see through garments, flip-flops, between-the-toe shoes without heels, bedroom shoes, or other footwear that interferes with freedom of movement and dresses, pants, or skirts with high splits is prohibited. Note: Students/Parents are urged to review local school handbooks for any additional requirements related to student dress.

25. STUDENT DRESS CODE VIOLATION

All students are expected to adhere to the expectations of appropriate dress as indicated on page 6 of this handbook and any additional requirements listed in local school regulations.

The following applies to all student dress code violations:

Number of Offenses	Action of the School
First Offense	Verbal Reprimand, Contact Parent and In-School Suspension (ISS) until end-of-day or correction of the violation
Second Offense	Required Parent Conference and two (2) days ISS
Third Offense	Contact Parent, three (3) Days ISS and Local Formal Hearing, which may result in up to ten (10) days ISS, Local Probation and/or parent attend classes with student in lieu of ISS. Chronic violation of this expectation will result in the charge of #19a – Repeated Violation of School Rules and a possible referral to an alternative setting upon a finding of guilty by the Student Evidentiary Hearing Committee.

The dress code guidelines will be identified in the 2009-2010 handbook and parents will continue to sign and acknowledge receipt of the handbook. We are confident that the new guidelines will enhance the academic school environment during the next school year and beyond. For additional information please contact your school principal.