

Dress Code Guidelines Beginning 2024-25



Galion City Schools expects students to dress suitably for school without compromising their health or safety. Students may continue to participate in the campus wear program; however, if they wish not to participate, students must conform to the guidelines below. We revised our procedures with the leadership of students, parents, staff, administrators, and board members to ensure that:

1. Student attire assists in creating a safe learning environment in classrooms.
2. Dress code enforcement does not hinder school attendance.
3. Students can wear comfortable, personal-choice clothing, with the exceptions listed in Section 3.
4. The administration can approve exceptions to the items below.

Section 1 - All students must cover certain body parts at all times

1. Clothes must fully cover private parts, buttocks, the chest, and the stomach with opaque (not see-through) fabric.

Section 2 - While following Section 1 above, students must wear:

- A shirt with fabric in the front, in the back, on the sides, over the shoulders, and under the arms AND Pants,
- jeans, or the equivalent (for example, skirts, sweatpants, leggings, dresses, shorts, etc.) AND Appropriate
- footwear to the grade level or class:
 - a. For grades PreK-5: Shoes must have a stiff sole and cover the entire foot.
 - i. Crocs and sandals are permitted when the heel straps are engaged.
 - b. For grades 6-12: Shoes must have a stiff sole.
 - i. Crocs and sandals (without heel straps) are permitted except where mentioned in Number 4 below.
- Periodic assignments, such as public speaking, job readiness, or classroom safety requirements, such as PE class, science labs, industrial technology, etc., may require specific attire and/or footwear covering the entire foot.

Section 3 - Students Cannot Wear:

1. Items from Section 2, Number 2, with holes that present a safety issue or violate Section 1.
2. Clothing must cover undergarments.
3. Footwear presenting a safety hazard, such as slippers, flip-flops, cleats (except on athletic fields), and other features that interfere with walking or running or have the potential for injury (excessively high heels, "wheelie" heels, etc.).
4. Violent language, violent images, hate speech, profanity, pornography, and/or images/language that create a hostile/intimidating environment based on any protected class or marginalized groups.
5. Images/language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping, paraphernalia, or any illegal item/activity.
6. Bullet proof vests, body armor, tactical gear, facsimiles, or other items that would cause panic.
7. Swimsuits (except as required at athletic practice) and outerwear.
8. Personal accessories that pose a danger to others or have potential as a weapon.
9. Items covering the face or ears (except as a religious observance or protective equipment).
10. Any clothing or accessories that cause a school disruption or pose a risk of disruption.

Section 4 - Enforcement

Creating a comprehensive list covering every potential student dress code issue is impractical. The administration will have the final say on unclear dress code violations. They will take necessary action, including contacting parents for support. Students in violation must switch to acceptable attire, and repeated offenses can lead to disciplinary action.

Section 5 - FAQs

Q: Can I wear spaghetti straps to school?

A: The guidelines specify that shirts must have fabric in the front, in the back, on the sides, over the shoulders, and under the arms, so spaghetti straps would not be permissible under these guidelines.

Q: Are ripped jeans allowed?

A: Ripped jeans that reveal undergarments or have holes large enough to reveal undergarments, private parts, and/or buttocks cannot be worn. Ripped jeans with holes large enough to pose a snagging or other safety hazard cannot be worn.

Q: What about clothing not mentioned in the rules above?

A: As long as students meet the requirements in Sections 1 and 2, they can wear personal choice clothing. Students must:

- Wear clothing that fully covers private parts, buttocks, the chest, and the stomach with opaque (not see-through) fabric, they wear a shirt with fabric in the front, in the back, on the sides, over the shoulders, and under the arms AND
 - Wear pants, jeans, or the equivalent (for example, skirts, sweatpants, leggings, dresses, shorts, etc.)AND
 - Wear appropriate footwear to the grade level or class AND
 - Not wear clothing or accessories that cause a school disruption or pose a risk of disruption
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Q: Can I wear crocs and sandals?

A: There are more specific guidelines for younger and older students.

For grades PreK-5, Crocs can be worn as long as they are in “sport mode” with the heel strap engaged. Sandals can also be worn as long as they have a heel strap. Because many students run at recess and the playground area has rubberized mulch, students would not be able to wear slides, flip flops, or other footwear that does not have a heel strap. This kind of footwear may present a safety hazard.

Crocs and slides can be worn for students in grades 6 through 12, except for certain classes where safety is a concern.

Q: What’s the difference between flip-flops, slides, and Birkenstock-type footwear?

A: In our district, footwear must have stiff soles. Students in grades PreK-5 must have a heel strap, but there is no requirement for having a heel strap in grades 6-12. Because of the activity level in different grades, specific footwear may present a greater safety hazard than other footwear.

For instance, flip-flops generally have a soft sole and are poorly constructed. Flip-flops are affordable footwear, but the lack of durability increases the risk of injury. For our younger learners, flip-flops can break or fall off when they run at recess. This type of footwear is more prone to failure, resulting in a greater possibility of injury. The soft sole makes them a puncture hazard for students of all grade levels.

Slides and Birkenstock-type footwear without a heel strap are not permissible for our students in grades PreK-5 because they lack a heel strap. If Birkenstock-type footwear has a heel strap, students in Pre-K-5 can wear it. Students in grades 6-12 can wear slides and all Birkenstock-type footwear except for specific times or classroom safety requirements, such as public speaking, job readiness, PE class, science labs, industrial technology, etc.

Q: Are there any restrictions on hats or head coverings?

A: Items covering the face or ears are prohibited unless they are for religious observance or protective equipment. To maintain a safe environment, hoods, and hats cannot be worn so that our security cameras can view students, staff, and visitors.