



# LAKE NORMAN CHARTER DRESS CODE

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Lake Norman Charter School has a mission to provide an educational environment that develops students with a focus on college readiness, leadership, and social responsibility. The Board of Education, in partnership with school administration, has adopted a student dress code to assist administrators, teachers, students and parents in fulfilling this mission by creating a safe, inclusive, equitable and positive K-12 educational environment conducive to student learning and achievement. The policy provides guidelines, standards and enforcement procedures for student dress during the school day and during other school-related activities.

The student dress code policy is applicable to each student at all of our campuses during the school day.

The values encompassed in the student dress code are as follows:

- Students should enjoy a positive and safe learning environment that promotes their physical, social and emotional health.
- Student attire should not interfere with any aspect of the educational process, school safety, the health or safety of any student or teacher, or contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student or teacher.
- In line with all of Lake Norman Charter's policies, the student dress code policy should be based on equitable educational access and not differentiate based on students' race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, immigration status, physical, mental, or educational disability, gender expression, socioeconomic status, body type or body size.
- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of intimidation, harassment or oppression from their peers.
- There should be limited disruptions to the learning process and no unnecessary barriers to school attendance.

Parents are asked to partner with the school to monitor student attire to help adhere to the guiding principles set forth in this policy.

Principals may use their discretion in implementing the dress code. Principals may make reasonable accommodations on the basis of the nature of a particular school event. Any expectations that are outside of the regular dress code due to a special event will be clearly articulated to both students and families prior to the event.

As it is impossible to express a dress code that covers every imaginable alternative of student dress, when questions arise about the suitability of a particular outfit or article of clothing, we will be guided by the aims for the dress code as clarified in the points above.

## STANDARD OF APPEARANCE FOR STUDENTS

- A. **Basic Principle:** Clothes must be worn with opaque (non see-through) fabric in the front, back, and on the sides that, when in a resting state, covers and conceals a student's undergarments, genitals, buttocks, breasts, nipples and midriffs. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.
- B. **Students Must Wear (while following the Basic Principle) All of the Following:**
1. A **Top** that covers the waistband and undergarment straps in the front and back; and
  2. A **Bottom** (pants, jeans, skirts, shorts, leggings, sweatpants, etc.); and
  3. **Shoes** that are appropriate for any applicable physical activity.
- C. **Students May Wear (while following the Basic Principle):**
1. Hats on designated days. Hats should not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff member. Staff members reserve the right to ask students to remove hats to uphold academic integrity.
  2. Religious headwear.
- D. **Students May Not Wear:**
1. Violent language, symbols or images including hate speech, obscenity, profanity or pornography.
  2. Images or language depicting or promoting the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or any illegal item/activity.
  3. Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
  4. Items that are not traditionally considered apparel.
  5. See-through clothing without opaque, compliant covering underneath.
  6. Pajamas, swim wear or exposed undergarments.
  7. Flip-Flops.
  8. Excessively sagging pants.
  9. Clothing that exposes a bare midriff.
  10. Excessively revealing clothing.
  11. Open backed shirts.
  12. Clothing reasonably likely to create a substantial disruption to the educational process.
- E. **Enforcement:** Any school dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of educational time. Staff concerns about student attire should be discussed discretely and privately to the extent practicable.

Students in violation of the dress code will be provided two options to comply with the dress code during the school day:

1. Students will be asked to remove the problematic item or to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to comply with the dress code for the remainder of the school day; or
2. If necessary, students' parents/guardians may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to comply with the dress code for the remainder of the school day.

Further, a student who violates the dress code may be subject to the Lake Norman Charter Discipline Policy and Student Behavior Code.

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