

5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

1. Sterling High School believes that proper etiquette, social customs, and good grooming are an important part of the education process. To this end, pupils must wear to school or school functions neat, clean and appropriate clothing that meets the standards of the educational environment. Any extreme in clothing, hair, cosmetics, or appearance that may disrupt the normal operations of the school cannot be permitted.
2. It is not the intention of these guidelines to usurp the authority of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for determining what is appropriate dress and grooming for their children in accordance with the age and grade of Sterling pupils. Since the home provides the funds, guidance and upkeep for the pupil's clothing and grooming, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) - rather than the school - are primarily responsible for the general appearance of pupils.

The school will work, however, with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in encouraging pupils to assume this responsibility and to execute it sensibly as they mature. This purpose of the home and school working together should be to help pupils accept and cooperate with the guidelines suggested.

3. Appropriateness and moderation, concern for the health and safety of the pupils, and the avoidance of distractions to the educational process are the guiding principles of the pupil dress code. Styles and fads are constantly changing and cannot possibly be covered by specific rules and regulations. The task of evaluating what is proper in the way of dress and grooming is highly controversial, and opinion among people varies.

The school administration will assume responsibility for ruling on specific items of clothing and general appearance for reasons of safety and health or for the order, well-being and general welfare of pupils.

4. Requirements for physical education are an exception to the overall dress code. Refer to physical education administrative guidelines and teacher requirements in this area.
5. The components of the Sterling High School dress code are as follows:



- a. Student IDs must be on your person and able to be presented when requested, at all times (Must present ID when entering the building, entering/exiting class, using restroom, entering offices, etc.).
- b. Acceptable footwear with a backing must always be worn unless a course policy and/or procedure dictate otherwise. Open face/toe shoes/sandals are allowed to be worn with a back. For example, flip flops, slides, bubble slides/open back Uggs, and slippers, are considered unacceptable.
- c. Tops must cover from shoulder-to-shoulder and neck to beltline. All tops must have sleeves. Students will not be allowed to wear any jackets or hoodies to cover the top, changing the top will be required.
- d. Shorts are not permitted.
- e. Garments with stylish rips must have more garment than rips.
- f. Skirts and shorts must fall below mid-thigh. Volleyball shorts, Nike Pros, etc. must be mid-thigh.
- g. Leggings and yoga-type pants may be worn, however, undergarments should not be visible.
- h. Fishnet and other see-through shirts, blouses, sweaters, and pants must have at least a tee-shirt type undergarment under them to be considered acceptable.
- i. Bodysuits may be worn as an undergarment with shorts, dresses, skirts, or pants, under them to be considered acceptable.
- j. Sunglasses may not be worn in school.
- k. The wearing of scarves on the head, hats, bandanas, wave caps, and gloves in the building is not permitted at any time. This includes all indoor activities, including athletic events, concerts, plays, clubs/activities, etc. Headbands should not be more than 6 inches wide. Administration will work with individuals and



student government, SGA, when exceptions are permitted. IE pre prom.

- l. Clothing imprinted with implied, overt, or double meaning obscene vocabulary, inappropriate images, or slogans, or images related to tobacco, liquor, intended to devalue or infringe on the rights of others are not allowed. The Sterling Administration has the right to make a final decision.
- m. Tattoos on the body related to the above items must be covered.
- n. Students who bring book bags/gym bags or backpacks to school must leave them in their lockers when they arrive with the exception of school issued laptop bags and bags smaller than "8x11 in." School materials and lunches should be stored in school hallway lockers. Gym clothes should be stored in PE lockers prior to the start of the school day. School hallway lockers are not to be shared.
- o. Inappropriate jewelry, chains, pointed rings, rings connecting two (2) or more fingers, dog collars, handcuffs, and excessive jewelry are unacceptable, as they present a safety hazard.
- p. Underwear may not be worn as outerwear. Undergarments must be worn and must not be exposed at any time or under any condition.
- q. No blankets are permitted in school at any time.
- r. No outerwear can be worn inside the building except district-approved apparel. Hoods are not be worn within the building, including the classroom.
- s. No cell phones or headphones during instruction and passing periods. Teachers reserve the right to send students down to VPO to collect cell phones and use discretion on appropriate use of technology and devices in the classroom.
- t. Only reusable bottles and water bottles are permitted. **NO OUTSIDE BEVERAGES or FOOD.**



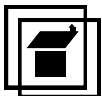
- u. Seniors will follow the following code of dress for participation in the graduation ceremony:
Students are required to wear business casual attire. Appropriate attire includes white dress shirt and tie, white dress top, full length dress slacks, skirts, dresses, dress socks, and dress shoes. Jeans, shorts, t-shirts, flip flops or sneakers are NOT allowed. No additional regalia may be worn, unless provided by Sterling High School. Students not meeting the standards as described in the dress code will be required to change or not participate in the graduation ceremony.
- v. This policy shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary by students, staff, and administration.

Any dress apparel that interferes with the instructional operation of the school is not allowed. Students not meeting the standards as described in the dress code will be referred to the Administration.

The dress code will be in effect for any activities and school trip sponsored by the school and/or booster clubs. I.E. team activities, captains' breakfast, etc. The Code is in effect anytime a student represents Sterling High School in any manner. When the administration determines a student is improperly or inappropriately dressed, they will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire if available. If appropriate attire is not available, the student will be removed from class and the parents notified. If contact with the parent cannot be made, or clothing made available students will be placed in the Internal Suspension room for the remainder of the school day. This action could result in an absence from school for the day. Continued violations will also result in further disciplinary actions as stated in the discipline reference chart.

Note: If appropriate attire is not available, the student will be removed from class and the parents notified. If contact with the parent cannot be made, or clothing made available students will be placed in the Internal Suspension room for the remainder of the school day.

The Student Council in conjunction with TV Production students will also provide "public service messages" on the morning announcements to support, encourage and publicize the dress code in a positive manner and identify appropriate clothing for pupils to wear.



OFFENSES

Pupils not meeting the standards as described in the dress code when referred to administration will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

First offense:

- Change of clothes
- Parent notification
- 1 Lunch/Admin Detention

Second offense:

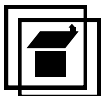
- Change Clothes
- Parent notification
- 3 Admin Detentions/Saturday Detention

Third offense

- Change Clothes
- Parent Conference with VPO
- 5 Admin Detentions and 1 Saturday Detention/ISS

Fourth offense and on:

- Change Clothes
- Parent Conference with Principal
- Internal Suspension pending conference



6. Seniors will follow the following code of dress for participation in the graduation ceremony:

Men:

Dress shirt and tie
Dress socks
Dress shoes
Full length dress slacks

Women:

Dress blouse
Dress shoes
Full length dress slacks or skirt or dress meeting the standards of the dress code

Administrators will determine the appropriateness of individual dress before the senior will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

7. When the administration has determined that a pupil is improperly or inappropriately dressed, that pupil will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire if it is available. If appropriate attire is not available, the pupil will be removed from class and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) notified. If contact with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) cannot be made, pupils will be placed in the internal suspension room for the remainder of the school day. Continued violations may also result in further disciplinary action.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1;18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 3 December 2009
Revised: 2 September 2010
1 September 2016
21 September 2023

