



August 11, 2015

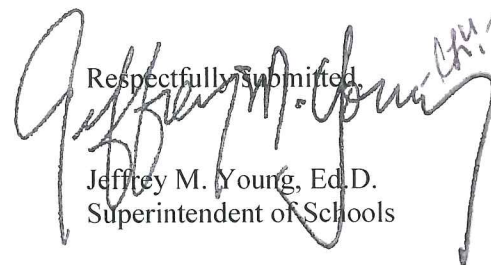
TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Revision to Student Dress Code Policy

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revision to the Student Dress Code Policy as detailed in the attached document. This is the first reading of the revision to the Student Dress Code Policy.

Description: This revision is being proposed in order to provide a safe and supportive school environment for all students and to ensure alignment with the provisions of M.G.L.c. 76, §5 which was recently amended to include a prohibition against discrimination on the basis of gender identity and to align it to the provisions of the proposed Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity Policy that is having its second reading on August 11, 2015.

Supporting Data: M.G.L.c. 76, §5
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education "Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity"
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network "Model District Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students"

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students are permitted to dress in compliance with this dress code in a manner consistent with their gender identity. Students shall have a right to express themselves by the dress and hair style of their own choosing provided students meet their responsibility to dress and groom in a manner that conforms to the reasonable standards of health, safety and cleanliness and which will not cause a disruption of the educational process.

Feet must be covered (shod) at all times.

Clothing will be deemed inappropriate if it is disturbing to other students or in any way interferes with the educational process. This includes, but is not limited to, bare midriffs, short shorts, low slung trousers and other clothing which is offensive and/or violates acceptable standards of dress.

Students are prohibited from wearing clothing and accessories that:

- a. have slogans, comments or designs that are obscene, lewd or vulgar;
- b. are directed towards or intended to harm, harass, threaten, intimidate or demean individual groups or individuals of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, genetic information or marital status;
- c. advertise alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal drugs.

Parents/guardians will be notified and students will be sent home to change their clothing if not suitable for school.

Any violation by any person of any right set forth in this Code shall be grounds for an appeal pursuant to the applicable section of the Cambridge Public Schools Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Adopted: September 6, 2011