

TITLE 17: EDUCATION

CHAPTER 3: VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUBCHAPTER 21: VIRGIN ISLANDS STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY DIVISION 3: STUDENT DRESS CODE UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Section 17-21-3-1. AUTHORITY

The Virgin Islands Board of Education is authorized and has jurisdiction to prescribe general regulations to do anything necessary for the proper maintenance and operation of the public schools of the Virgin Islands by virtue of Virgin Islands Code, Title 17, Section 21.

Section 17-21-3-2. OBJECTIVES

- (a) The purpose of the Student Dress Code and Uniform Guidelines is to promote school safety, improve discipline and enhance the learning environment in the following ways:
- By sharing guidelines for appropriate and acceptable school uniform and school events attires.
 - By maintaining uniform and school events attire code consistently maintained throughout school districts.
 - By avoiding discriminatory requirements and practices based on a students' sex, race, religion, gender.
 - By recognizing that students have limits in their freedom of speech and expression as it pertains to their dress.

Section 17-21-3-3. PROCEDURES

- (a) Students must attend school dressed in their complete uniform.
- (b) Secondary students must have school identification ("ID") attached to their uniform. This is a security measure that identifies a school's student.
- (c) Parents must encourage students to meet basic hygiene standards and ensure that the students comply with the Dress Code. The school should provide support to students in order to comply with the dress code.

- (d) Students who participate in laboratory classes or classes with reasonable risks must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) (including face & eye protection, lab coats & apron, foot protection, and respiratory protection). The Department of Education must identify which resources will be provided by the system or students.

Section 17-21-3-4. UNIFORM ATTIRE

- (a) All students must wear a button-down collar shirt, blouse, or polo shirt in their school color. All shirts, blouses or polos must be always tucked into the uniform bottom wear.
- (b) School insignia or logo design and details must be provided by the school if required by the school.
- (c) Students may wear either skirts, or pants as uniform bottom wear. Skirts must be pleated and have no frills nor ornamentation and must be worn at a student's knee length or lower. Pants with loops must be worn with a belt. Leggings must not be worn in place of skirts or pants, unless it is part of an accommodation approved by the Principal. See Section 17-21-3-5. PROHIBITIONS; Section 17-21-3-6. EXEMPTIONS
- (d) Shoes or footwear shall be black or dark colored and closed. No open toe shoes, bare feet or slippers are allowed. Footwear such as flats, dress shoes, sneakers and athletic shoes should not be neon or bright colored and should be appropriate and safe for navigating differing surface areas. Secondary students are allowed to wear heels, provided they do not exceed 2 inches in height.

Section 17-21-3-5. PROHIBITIONS

- (a) Hats, caps, bandanas, beanies, visors, hoodies, or other non-religious head coverings; and sunglasses shall not be worn during the school instructional day or related events. Any headwear worn must have a religious function and be approved in advance by administration.
- (b) The hair styles (both facial and head) must be clean and by the nature of the style not intended to create a distraction. No hair style should threaten the health or safety of the student or other individuals.
- (c) Jewelry shall be limited: One (1) watch, small pair of earrings no larger than a quarter or longer than one inch, and bracelet. If an item causes distraction,

constitutes a health or safety hazard, or is harmful to the building, laboratory class, or gym the student will be required to remove it. Smart watches are to be placed in airplane mode or on silent during instruction time. The school is not liable for theft as a result of noncompliance with this policy.

- (d) Clothing or accessories that advertise or depict alcohol, drugs, nudity, tobacco products, gang memberships, obscene language or graphics and phrases that are offensive to others; or that may constitute or promote fear, violence, illegal activities, and other sensitive of inappropriate subject matter are prohibited. The student will be required to remove it.
- (e) With the exception of ear piercings, facial and body piercing of any kind is prohibited.
- (f) All inappropriate or distracting tattoos must be covered at all times while in the school building or at school-related activities, or school-sponsored events, non-distracting tattoos may also be required to be covered (Principal's discretion).
- (g) Headphones and earbuds are not to be worn anywhere but the cafeteria and during in class instruction that requires its use.
- (h) No exposed cleavage or midriff, body hugging, cut out areas will be allowed or permitted for school wear.
- (i) Thin straps on tank tops, muscle shirts, halter tops, tube tops, and/or spaghetti strap tops, see through clothing are not permitted. Undergarments should not be visible (i.e., bra straps, underwear).
- (j) Loose fitting pants that will not stay on the waist without belts are prohibited. Belts must be worn around the waist and must be visible.
- (k) Extremely sloppy, badly torn, or inappropriately torn/slit/ripped clothing is prohibited.
- (l) No form fitting pants or skirts.

Section 17-21-3-6. EXEMPTIONS

- (a) An exemption means waiving a requirement.
- (b) An exemption request from the parent/guardian of the student should be in writing to the principal. The signed letter must be delivered via email or hand delivery.
- (c) Grounds on which exemption may be sought include (but may not be limited to):

- (1) Religious
 - (2) Cultural or ethnic
 - (3) Itinerant students
 - (4) Genuine medical or family illness
 - (5) Hardship Dress
- (d) After meeting with the parents or caregivers, the principal must provide in writing, a determination regarding the exemption request and include the type of exemption and the time frame, if any.
- (e) The principal can exempt students from the Student Dress Code upon written request and interview with parents or caregivers. The approval should be provided to the parent, a copy kept in the student's file and a copy provided to the district superintendent

Section 17-21-3-7. DRESS IN SPECIALIZED CLASSES

In subjects which use Certificate Qualifications (work placement or work experience), sport teams, JROTC, etc., clothing requirements must be met based on Health, Safety and Uniform standards. These will be regulated by the principal with the students, parents, course supervisors and commanders as necessary.

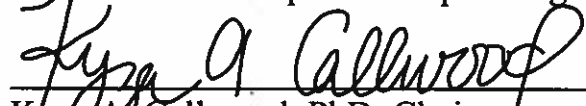
Section 17-21-3-8. SCHOOL TRIP DRESS CODE

- (a) A school dress code may be established by the school Principal, or designee prior to the date of the trip and shared with parents and guardians.
- (b) The dress code should be designed for comfort, safety, weather, and proper representation of the school.
- (c) The dress code remains in place until the students return to school.
- (d) Photo identification (school ID) is required on any school field trip.
- (e) Refer to Section 17-21-3-5. PROHIBITIONS


The Virgin Islands Board of Education's Student Dress Code policy must be applied during school hours while traveling to and from school and when students are engaged in school activities outside school hours. Schools shall make every effort to

work collaboratively with students and parents to ensure adherence to the dress code policy and not jeopardize educational achievement. Violations of the dress code shall include but not be limited to warnings and conference(s) to solicit parent support and cooperation. Nonadherence and lack of compliance shall follow the recommendations in the Student Discipline policy.

I, Kyza A. Callwood, the duly appointed and qualified Chairman of the governing board of the Virgin Islands Board of Education do hereby certify that the above revised Student Dress Code Uniform Guidelines were adopted by the Virgin Islands Board of Education on July 25, 2022 and the Executive Director is authorized to effectuate the completion of promulgation.


Kyza A. Callwood, PhD, Chairperson
VI Board of Education

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the said Virgin Islands Board of Education this 26th day of July, 2022.


Shawna K. Richards, Secretary
VI Board of Education

