1. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPEARANCE**

In accordance with Massachusetts State Law, there is an expectation that students dress in keeping with reasonable standards of safety, health, and cleanliness so as not to detract from the educational process. We expect that students at Melrose Public Schools dress in a manner that is appropriate for school, a place of work and study. A person’s grooming, dress, appearance, and behavior does have a bearing on how others react.

Any student who is wearing inappropriate clothing will be referred immediately to an administrator who will contact a parent to provide alternative attire. There is no first offense punishment for making a mistake and wearing clothes that violate the Dress Code. Students simply must change their clothing and attend class as soon as possible. However, students who repeatedly and/or habitually violate the Dress Code (i.e. wears the same or similar clothes to school after being told not to) may be punished in accordance with the “INSUBORDINATION or DEFIANCE” section of the Code of Conduct. The final determination of what constitutes “appropriate appearance” is left to the discretion of the building administrator(s).

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|  | Middle School | High School |
| General Rules | Dress and grooming should be neat and clean. Clothing that creates disruption or disorder within the school is not allowed. Torn, ragged, dirty, or inappropriately vented shirts, pants, or other vented or ripped clothing are not allowed. | Dress code is designed to allow for student comfort while maintaining an environment conducive to learning and appropriate for the educational setting.  Dress and grooming should be neat and clean. Clothing that creates disruption or disorder within the school is not allowed. Clothing should properly cover the body and not distract from the learning process. Midriff exposure, low hanging pants are not allowed. |
| Tops | Tank tops and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Midriff exposure is not allowed. |
| Bottoms | Shorts, skirts, and/or dresses higher than mid-thigh are inappropriate and not allowed, since clothes should properly cover the body and not distract from the learning process. Low hanging pants are not allowed. |
| Footwear | All footwear should be fully enclosed. In the case of sandals, footwear must have a heel strap. Flip flops and sandals without heel straps are not allowed for safety reasons. | Student must wear appropriate footwear. |
| Physical Education | The dress code for all gym classes includes sneakers; students must wear sneakers to gym class. | Students must wear clothing appropriate for physical education. Sneakers are required for physical education classes. |
| Headwear  (Except for Religious Reasons) | Sunglasses, hats, hoods, bandanas, handkerchiefs, scarfs, doo rags and other head gear may not be worn in the school, during the day. | Students are not allowed to wear hats, hoods, or sunglasses in the building during school hours.  \*With the exception of religious observance. |