



DRESS CODE

It is the intent of Explore Knowledge Academy to foster an atmosphere of student empowerment based on individual choice. Part of this empowerment is found in how a student chooses to dress during their time in school, which can make their time in school more relaxing and productive. EKA encourages students to dress appropriately for school activities. The dress code puts focus on academics, not fashion and allows students to express themselves through personality and individual achievement. Dressing appropriately creates a sense of school pride and belonging as well as reducing discipline issues and distractions. Students and parents will abide by staff requests to alter clothing when it has a negative impact on the educational environment as determined by the staff. The school has the right to designate which type of dress fashions, fads, or appearance(s) disrupt or detract from the educational program and may be a potential safety hazard. Students are expected to use good hygiene and wear clean clothes that fit.

SECONDARY GUIDELINES (grades 6-12):

- A: **SHOES:** All students will wear shoes with hard soles. Slippers are not acceptable footwear. Students should wear tennis shoes for physical education.

- B: **SHIRTS/TOPS:** Shirts/tops are to be appropriately buttoned or worn in accord with the design of that shirt or blouse. Shirts cannot have necklines that are lower than the straight line from the top of the underarm across to the opposite underarm. Tops may not be transparent or expose the midriff. No tank, tube, halter, spaghetti strap, strapless or back-less shirts may be worn. Sleeveless shirts, tops or dresses are permitted under the following criteria: shoulder seams must be at least 2" wide and the arm openings must be no longer than 2" below the underarm. Undergarments cannot be showing. If a jacket is to be worn to cover these types of garments, the jacket may NOT be removed during the school day, regardless of ambient temperature. Shoulder straps must be at least two inches in width (boys and girls). Shirts must be long enough in length to cover the stomach and back completely. Blouses made of sheer fabric may be worn only as an over blouse to tops that meet shirt guidelines.

- C: **PANTS:** All pants should be worn on the waist without undergarment showing and of the appropriate size for the individual (not too baggy or tight). Shorts/skorts must be at least 3" above the knee or longer and hemmed appropriately, without frays and/or slits. Biking shorts or spandex shorts are not permitted to be worn at school or at any after-school activity. If jeans with holes are worn, holes exposing skin must not be any higher than five (5) inches above the top of the kneecap.

- D: **SKIRTS AND DRESSES:** The length must be at least 3" above the knee or longer and hemmed appropriately, without frays and without slits. Slits or openings cannot extend beyond three (3) inches above the top of the kneecaps. The tops of the dresses should follow the guidelines for SHIRTS/TOPS above.

E: TIGHTS/LEGGINGS/JEGGINGS/YOGA PANTS/EXERCISE PANTS: Tights may only be worn if the pants, shorts, skirt or shirt over them extends to 3" above the knee. Leggings/Jeggings/Yoga Pants/Exercise Pants can be worn if the shorts, skirt or shirt over them extends to 3" above the knee.

F: HEADGEAR: Hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, etc. and unapproved headgear are prohibited inside the school buildings except on designated days.

G: GENERAL: If movement in the garments worn exposes the student's torso or undergarments, it is not acceptable. This includes pants worn below the hips, shirts with over-exaggerated arm-holes, or short shirts that do not meet the top of the student's belt line. Obscene, profane, gang affiliated, spiked, studded clothing or accessories, controversial slogans, or advertisements are prohibited, and we request that any shirts, jackets, or headgear with lettering or images be minimized. (If in doubt, ask an advisor or administrator, as they will be responsible for the final decisions on what is appropriate.) Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times and must not be seen.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (grades K-5):

Elementary students will follow the same guidelines as the Secondary students with the following exception: All students will wear shoes that cover the entire foot, tennis shoes, high tops, etc. Shorts or leggings must be worn under skirts and dresses.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

The administrative staff retains the authority to grant exceptions to the above guidelines for special occasions or conditions.