

Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union  
 Southwest Vermont Union Elementary  
 School District  
 Mount Anthony Union School District  
 North Bennington Graded School District  
 Arlington School District  
 Sandgate School District

## Dress Policy

Policy # 5080

It is the policy of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District, Mount Anthony Union School District, North Bennington Graded School District, Arlington School District and Sandgate School District to enforce a dress policy to create and maintain a productive and positive learning environment, minimizing disruptions and distractions.

The SVSU is committed to creating a positive learning environment for all students. The purpose of the SVSU dress policy is to promote a body-positive environment while respecting the freedom for students to express their individuality. All students should expect a safe learning environment, to feel welcome by upholding standards that foster a secure and equitable community. The purpose of the SVSU dress policy is not marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size. The SVSU dress policy is designed with a focus on teaching and learning.

	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union	1/19/06	4/19/07	
Bennington School District, Inc.	8/7/06	9/12/06	
Mount Anthony Union School District	8/14/06	2/12/07	5080
North Bennington Graded School District	8/10/06	9/14/06	
Pownal School District	7/19/06	8/16/06	
Shaftsbury School District	8/1/06	2/27/07	
Woodford School District	8/7/06	4/2/07	

	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Review Date	Replaces Policy	Administrative procedures completed
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union	8/27/2023	5/22/2024			June 2024
Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District	1/24/2024	4/9/2024			
Mount Anthony Union School District	9/20/2023	4/22/2024			
North Bennington Graded School District	10/11/2023	4/10/2024			
Arlington School District	10/11/2023	4/10/2024			
Sandgate School District	12/14/2023				

## **Administrative Regulations, Policy #5080**

**Basic Principle:** Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with non-see through fabric. All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

### **Students Must Wear**

1. A shirt with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms AND
2. Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, skirt, sweatpants, leggings, dress, or shorts),
3. Shoes (safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity)

### **Students May Wear**

1. Hats and hoodie sweatshirts are at the discretion of the individual school \*
2. Ripped jeans must adhere to the basic principle of the administrative regulation
3. Tank tops
4. Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing

### **Students Cannot Wear**

1. Violent language or images
2. Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity)
3. Hate speech, profanity, pornography
4. Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups
5. Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)
6. Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon
7. Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance)

\* Please refer to your school’s handbook for more detailed information.

**Dress Code Enforcement:** To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below.

Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined above. Students in violation of the Dress Code and/or are in violation of the “Students Cannot Wear” section will be provided three (3) options to be dressed more to code during the school day

- 1. Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.**
- 2. Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.**

**3. If necessary, students' parents or guardians may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.**

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days, summer school days, in person and remote instruction, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances, and prom, unless otherwise approved by administration.