

DRESS CODE AND UNIFORM POLICY

The policy of A. E. Phillips Lab School shall be that no mode of attire will be considered proper for school wear that disrupts the classroom and/or the school's positive learning environment. The principal or his/her designee of the school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided. The school's position is that it wants to teach each student to use good judgment in his/her total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the purpose of the school. Cleanliness and values of the community shall be a basic consideration. The intent of this dress code is to maintain an optimum learning environment throughout the school day and all school-sponsored activities. A student whose attire/appearance is not acceptable will be required to make necessary changes in his/her appearance/ clothing.

Student dress and grooming are not to adversely affect the students' participation in classes, school programs, other school-related activities, or detract from the learning environment of the school. Extremes in style and fit in student dress and extremes in style of grooming will not be permitted. Administrators are authorized to use their discretion in determining extremes in styles of dress and grooming and what is appropriate and suitable for school wear. No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures. Policies regarding dress and grooming stress the importance of reducing distractions that inhibit learning and are addressed as an attempt to enhance the learning environment.

Body Armor

It shall be unlawful and against policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any school property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus. *Body armor* shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

General Dress Code Rules

The AEP Dress Code includes but is not limited to the following guidelines:

1. Students will be expected to wear a school-approved uniform. Apparel should be worn as designed, i.e. belts buckled, pants at waist, shoestrings, tied, etc. Clothing should be clean and free of holes and tears.
2. There will be no mutilation including tearing, ripping, or cutting of hems, cuffs, sleeves, or body of any of the coordinates. **NO OVER SIZING!** The uniform must be in the correct size to avoid any sagging. Excessively tight clothing or pants are not allowed, which includes leggings.
3. A uniform shirt or uniform t-shirt must be worn at all times, including under jackets, and sweatshirts.
4. Clothing that allows the showing of undergarments is not permitted. See-through apparel is not permitted.
5. Socks are to be solid white, black, gray, red or navy (may have logos). **Socks with designs or patterns will not be permitted.** Socks are required if shoes are designed to be worn with socks.
6. Sunshades are not permitted.
7. Necklaces with large medallions may not be worn.
8. No baseball style caps, hats, sweat bands, bandannas, or tied head coverings are allowed on campus or on the bus; all will be taken and not returned. Students may wear toboggan caps to school during cold or inclement weather provided they are not worn inside any school buildings.
9. No body armor of any type is permitted to be worn.
10. No scarves, hats, gloves, or other cold-weather accessory other than a uniform approved sweatshirt or jacket may be worn in the classroom or hallways.
11. Male students are not allowed to wear earrings. Female students may wear one set of appropriate earrings. Earrings should not be larger than a quarter, no longer than one inch in length and can only be worn on the earlobe. All other visible body-piercing jewelry is not allowed. This includes nose, lip, tongue, eyebrow, etc. piercing. Students will be asked to remove any items causing a distraction.
12. Hair designs which cause undue attention, distracting from the educational environment as determined by the administration, are not allowed. Unnatural hair color is not permitted, i.e. blue, purple, green, etc.
13. Plain t-shirts worn under uniform shirts must be solid white and not extend beyond the uniform sleeve.
14. Shorts, skorts, dresses, and skirts are to be mid-thigh or longer (no shorter than SIX INCHES above the knee.) Measurements will be taken as the student kneels on the floor measuring from the floor to the bottom of the hem.
15. **All students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are required to wear tennis shoes.** Six, seventh, and eighth grade students are to wear casual shoes or tennis shoes. Back-less shoes and shoes with heels more than two inches in height are not to be worn. Shoes must have a back that covers the heel.
16. At school sponsored events, swim suits must be a one piece. If a two-piece is worn, a dark T-shirt that covers the entire suit must be worn.
17. On the last Friday of the month, students may wear AEP's **current year uniform t-shirts** with denim (blue jeans) or khaki bottoms which follow uniform guidelines—no holes or frayed bottoms. Pants must be hemmed. When blue jeans are worn, shirt tails do not have to be tucked in. If uniform bottoms are worn, shirts must be tucked in. Shirts cannot be knotted or gathered in a fastener.

18. **DRESS DOWN DAYS**-The director may designate days that students will be allowed to wear casual clothes. Extremely short or tight clothes will not be allowed. Shirts must cover the midriff when the arms are raised. Shirts may be sleeveless but tank tops are not permitted. Shorts must adhere to the “no more than six inches above the knee” rule,” and must be hemmed and free of holes. Messages printed on shirts cannot be offensive or suggestive. Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade will be required to wear tennis shoes on dress down days so that they may fully participate in PE. The director/designee will determine if clothing is inappropriate and those students failing to adhere to the guidelines will forfeit the right to wear casual clothes. **Tights or leggings will not be allowed on dress down days.**
19. Students improperly dressed will have the option to borrow a uniform from the office or call home for appropriate clothing. If the dress code is habitually broken, a conference with the director, parents, and student will be scheduled.
20. **Please LABEL ALL items brought to school, including clothing.** Do not monogram names on the outside of uniform pieces. **Once a month, unlabeled and/or unclaimed lost & found items will be donated to the AEP clothes closet or a local donation center.**
21. Polo dresses are not allowed.

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Shirts:

1. Polo style shirt colors: Solid red, white, or navy. They can be long or short sleeve with collar and buttons.
2. Official school-approved and school-sold uniform t-shirts. Students may wear red, navy or grey t-shirts.
3. NO LOGOS.
4. Shirt must be neatly tucked into pants at all times; shirt tails must be long enough to remain tucked with arms raised above the head. (Bare midriffs are not allowed.)
5. If an undershirt is worn under the polo shirt, it must be solid white. It must be logo, emblem and writing free.
6. **A polo style shirt or uniform t-shirt must be worn at all times.**

Pants/Shorts/Capris/Skirts/Skort/Jumpers: (Must be of uniform style)

1. Colors: Khaki / tan or navy and AEP plaid skirts.
2. Fabric: Cotton or cotton polyester twill (no knit, rayon, denim, corduroy, linen, spandex, etc.)
3. Mid-calf pants (Capris) for girls are allowed.
4. Uniform Length: Skirts, skorts, and shorts (boys and girls) must be no shorter than 6 inches above the kneecap and must be the same length in the back as the front. Measurements will be taken as the student kneels on the floor measuring from the floor to the bottom of the hem.
5. Must be hemmed at the bottom with no holes, cuts, or rips anywhere.
6. No draw-string pants or joggers are allowed.
7. Belt must be worn if item has belt loops.
8. No cargo pants or shorts, carpenter pants, leggings or legging-like pants, bell bottoms, hip huggers, or ‘jeans style’ pants are permitted.

Belts:

1. Must be worn at the waist in belt loops, visible, and buckled at all times.
2. Belt is not to hang down excessively past belt loop.
3. Colors: Solid brown or black with a standard buckle are required.
4. Belt buckles must be plain and not oversized.

Tights and Leggings that are worn with skirts & jumpers:

1. Solid white, black, gray, red, or navy.
2. Leggings must come to the ankle.
3. Boys will not be permitted to wear tights or leggings.

Coats / Jackets:

1. Only approved solid navy sweaters, navy fleece jackets, or navy nylon jackets may be worn in the classroom.
2. NO LOGOS OR MONOGRAMMING is permitted.
3. All AEP school purchased sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts may be worn in the classroom. Items purchased through AEP’s PFC may have lettering or monogramming.

P.E. Uniform:

1. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls must dress out for P.E.
2. Uniforms may be purchased at the Ruston Locker Room. Parents are encouraged to put their student’s initials on the shorts and shirts.

If you have any questions about what is allowed, please check with the office at AEP first. Keep all receipts in case an item of clothing is not acceptable.