

Dress Code: Norcross High School acknowledges that good grooming and personal attire positively affect student achievement and conduct. The dress code for Norcross High School is designed to reduce the likelihood of distraction or disruption and to maintain an academic focus in the classroom and on campus. Instruction is interrupted when a student has to be seen by an administrator because of inappropriate dress. If in the judgment of the administration or staff, a student is dressed inappropriately, the student will be required to change clothing. Often, the student has to miss instruction time while waiting for a change of clothing to be brought to the school. *Time out of class will be regarded as unexcused.*

Norcross High School's administration and staff would like the cooperation of the students and parents in reviewing the student's dress to insure it meets the following dress code guidelines before the student comes to school.

1. *Headgear* – Headgear is prohibited and must be kept out of sight in the building. This includes, but is not limited to, caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, wave caps sweatbands, headbands, sunglasses, or any other head covering. No combs, rakes, curlers or picks may be worn in the hair. Exceptions for religious or medical reasons may be granted by the principal
2. *Shirts/Blouses/Tops/T-shirts* – Blouses/shirts should be constructed so the tops of the shoulders are covered (no halter tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, or bare shoulder tops of any type will be allowed). Blouses/shirts that expose any portion of the waist, hips or midriff are not allowed. (If you raise your arms to shoulder level and the stomach shows, the top is unacceptable.) Other blouses/shirts that are not appropriate for school include, but are not limited to, low-cut, see through, backless, lingerie-like, or tube tops. Rips or holes are not allowed in shirts/tops. Boys are not to wear sleeveless shirts, except in P.E. Boys must wear shirts in P.E.
3. *Shorts/Skirts/Pants* – All shorts and skirts must be no shorter than 8 inches from the bottom of the knee. Slits in skirts cannot be above mid-thigh. Waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be on or above the hips with no underwear showing. There should be no rips or holes above mid-thigh.
4. *Trench Coats/Long Coats* – Students may not wear trench coats or other long coats that resemble the style of a trench coat to school. Students may not wear blankets, capes or cloaks to school. All coats must be properly worn.
5. *Shoes* – Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times at school. Bedroom shoes are not allowed.
6. *Undergarments* – Undergarments should not be visible.
7. *Pajamas/Sleepwear* – No pajamas or sleepwear of any kind are allowed to be worn to school.
8. *Outer Garments* – Stretch lycra, spandex or nylon tights, leotards, biker pants or underwear worn as an outer garment are strictly prohibited, except in dance class or P.E.
9. *Overalls* – Overalls must fit and be fastened appropriately. A shirt of proper length and style must be worn under the overalls at all times.
10. *Display of Words or Symbols* – No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, illegal gang affiliation or other illegal activity express or implied. No student clothing or accessories shall be disruptive or have caused past disruption to the school environment. This includes “Snowman” T-shirts and any shirt with a picture of any sort of weapons and or violence.
11. *Jewelry and Accessories* – Jewelry and accessories that may be used as weapons are not allowed to be worn at school. This includes, but is not limited to, wallet chains, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are joined, and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist. Sharp objects that could pose a danger, such as spikes or safety pins, are not allowed on clothing or book bags. Mouth “Grills” are not allowed at any time in the building.
12. *Gang Related Clothing or Symbols* – Students are not allowed to display clothing or symbols that have been identified by the Gwinnett County Police Gang Taskforce as being commonly identified with gangs. Garments, jewelry, body art and tattoos that communicate gang allegiance are not allowed to be worn at school, and no item may be worn in a manner that communicates gang affiliation.
Gang related attire includes, but is not limited to, the following: students rolling up one pant leg, long bulky chains and necklaces, gang-styled belt buckles or other clothing (which have Olde English script letters and symbols), large oversized pendants on necklace and chains, bandanas, altering clothing from its original form to change the names and/or intended marking on the clothing, sweatbands and/or headbands, and draping articles of clothing, towels, or other objects out of pants pockets or over the shoulder or neck area.

This rule is subject to updates as additional wearing apparel becomes identified as gang affiliated or disruptive. The NHS web site should be consulted frequently in order to keep informed about additions or changes to this rule.

13. *Belts* – All belts must be properly fastened around the waist. The belt should not be excessive in length and should not be hanging from either side of the body.
14. *Distracting Dress/Appearance* – Any student's dress/appearance not specifically stated which the faculty or staff deems distracting will not be permitted. It is essential that students respect the learning environment by being appropriately dressed for school. The purpose of the student dress code is not to inhibit any person's taste in attire, but rather to better facilitate the process of education through reasonable guidelines of "dress" instilling dignity and pride. A student wearing clothing or accessories not described in these rules but which become distracting to the learning environment or identified as gang attire will receive a written warning in advance of any disciplinary action.
15. *Exceptions* – Exceptions to the Norcross High School dress code may be made by the principal or his/her designee for specific reasons.