

# WINDHAM ACADEMY'S DRESS CODE POLICY

## Dress Code Policy

In order to foster community, academic focus, and commitment to the learning environment, Windham Academy hereby adopts this Dress Code Policy. We're proud of our students, and we hope you'll be proud to attend Windham Academy. All students shall come to school in the school's dress code (with few exceptions). Parents/Guardians will be responsible for facilitating prompt compliance with the dress code and will be asked to bring in appropriate attire. If a student is unable to come to school in the appropriate dress code, administration may lend out t-shirts with the Windham Academy logo on them with the promise of getting that shirt washed and returned back to the school within a month. This will not be done for a student more than once per year. Students may wear school approved colors (gray, white, black, burgundy, and tan) on a rare occasion where it is not possible. Administration may reach out to families if this is an occurring theme. Students who are insubordinate or refuse to change the improper attire, or who repeat dress code violations will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion, depending on all the facts and circumstances for violating the dress code. Windham Academy has a required school dress code policy for several important reasons:

- 1) Dress code unites us as a community instilling pride for the school.
- 2) Dress code reduces distractions and clothing competition. This can reduce bullying and peer pressure by balancing out the playing field.
- 3) Dress code makes getting ready for school easier by simplifying the options of what a child can wear. This limits arguing about what a student should wear each day leaving less time spent dressing the student.
- 4) A dress code reflects a professional attitude with which we approach learning.

Windham Academy will strongly adhere to the dress code policy. Teachers and staff are being held accountable for enforcing it and they are evaluated on the compliance of the students in their classroom. If a child is not fully compliant with the policy, he or she might not be able to attend a school event such as a field trip or a concert unless a family member brings replacement clothing. Students may not change out of Windham Academy Public Charter School dress code at any point during the school day unless otherwise specified by the director. School approved tops can be purchased online at Land's End ([www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), 1.800.963.4816) by using Windham Academy's school number is **900190497** under school uniforms. The nearest Land's End store location is in the Burlington Mall located at 75 Middlesex Turnpike Suite 1002, Burlington, MA 01803 if you would like to order your clothing in person and try on sizes. If you are unsure whether an item is appropriate, please ask the office for assistance. We are happy to advise you on specific questions related to the dress code policy. You can email Meg Bedrick (a member of the Board of Trustees at [Meg.Bedrick@windhamacademy.org](mailto:Meg.Bedrick@windhamacademy.org)) or Melinda Labo (Windham Academy's school Director at [WindhamAcademyCharter@gmail.com](mailto:WindhamAcademyCharter@gmail.com)).

The components of the Windham Academy Public Charter School Dress Code are as follows:

- **Tops:** All Windham Academy approved tops are available on the Land's End website under Windham Academy. There are many options to choose from ranging in different styles, materials, and colors. As long as you are under the school's number (**900190497**) it is an approved top. A student is required to wear one article of clothing with a logo each day. The color choices are white, black, burgundy (a deep reddish brown color), tan/khaki, or gray. If you have purchased a WA t-shirt prior to the dress code being implemented, those shirts are allowed to be worn.
- **Undershirt:** If a student chooses to wear an undershirt, it must be white or black.
- **Pants/Skirts:** Students may choose any style of bottoms (as long as it is not ripped) to fit their comfort level. This can include khakis, chinos, leggings, shorts, skirts, skorts, jeans (in black,tan/gray), or cargo pants. The approved colors are tan/khaki, black, burgundy, and/or gray and must be solid in color. Via the Land's End website, students may purchase a burgundy plaid skirt.
- **Dresses:** Dresses are available on the Land's End website with the logo. If wearing a school colored dress without a logo, please wear a sweater/sweatshirt/vest over it.
- **Footwear:** Students are allowed to wear any type of shoe. This includes sneakers, dress shoes, and sandals. Footwear should be safe and appropriate for planned activities of the day.
- **Hats:** Hats of any kind are not to be worn in school, except for medical or religious reasons or if there is a designated school spirit day. However, students may wear a hat before school begins, after school ends, and while playing outside for sun protection or warmth.

#### KINDERGARTEN and FIRST GRADE ONLY

Students may choose to wear sweatpants or other bottoms that are comfortable to avoid accidents. Students in grades second and above are not permitted to wear sweatpants as an approved option as pants.

- **Dress down days/Spirit Days:** Throughout the school year there are certain days where students are able to participate in Dress Down Days. Flyers/emails will be sent home announcing these days and specifications. Most dress down days, students will bring in a dollar to opt out of Dollar Dress Down Day and those monies collected will be used to fund the uniform assistance program\*. Students are not required to participate in dress down days as they are optional. Please keep in mind, all tops must have straps; all strap styles are allowed, yet no undergarments shall be shown. Clothing may not be see-through or revealing; thin or see-through materials can only be worn in a non see-through combination that covers the abdomen, back, chest and sides of the body. The waistband of the pants/shorts must be worn above the buttocks; shorts or hemlines must fully cover the buttocks. Sunglasses, hoods, and hats are prohibited in the classroom except in the case that permission has been granted. Clothing advertising or related to drugs, alcohol, tobacco usage or that creates a hostile education environment (as per RSA 193-f:2) are prohibited. Clothing or accessories that include profanity or sexual innuendo or that promote violence are prohibited. Students who violate the dress code for the first time will be given a warning with a specific explanation of how their attire violates the dress code. If the attire is such an egregious infraction that it cannot be allowed, the student will be required to change or cover his/her clothing, which may involve parents

bringing clothing from home. Subsequent violations may result in more significant consequences.

**\*Uniform Assistance Program:** It is our intention that no family will see dress code/uniformed tops as an impediment to enrolling. We are offering this program to provide financial assistance to families that meet the district's economically disadvantaged guidelines, according to board policy. Specifically, the total household income is no greater than 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. Any family that qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program will also qualify for the uniform assistance program. These funds will be made available for low income families in need of assistance. This pool is obviously limited, and available to parents completing and submitting an evidence of financial hardship form. The form will be kept simple, and based upon the honor system. This program is funded by Dollar Down Days and by those donating money specifically to this program.

*This form will ask the following questions:*



The Windham Academy  
1 Industrial Drive  
Windham, NH 03087  
[www.windhamacademy.org](http://www.windhamacademy.org)

I am formally requesting financial assistance in providing Uniforms for my child(ren).

Our total annual household income is \_\_\_\_\_ per year.

*instead... I attest that our total annual household income is no greater than 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. **\*\***(see footnote)*

*Any family that qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program will also qualify for the uniform assistance program.*

PARENTS NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD(REN) NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

A \$250 dress code credit will be provided to the 10 applicant families with the greatest need (*based upon income*). Names of students/parents that receive help with the cost of uniforms will never be made public. The reason is that the materials are exempt from disclosure under RSA 91-A:5,III and IV.

**\*\***Federal poverty guidelines are defined here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>