

# Behavior and Discipline

Vestavia Hills City Schools administrators developed and commit to the following Purpose Statement and Collective Commitments regarding student behavior and discipline.

## Purpose

The purpose of discipline is to teach—positive behaviors, respect for self and others, and self-regulation skills—and ensure a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students.

## Collective Commitments

We commit to pursuing disciplinary action as an opportunity to teach positive behavior.

We commit to consistency in the disciplinary process of investigating, communicating, and assigning appropriate consequences.

We commit to student safety to promote a positive learning environment.

## Dress Code

Vestavia Hills City Schools is a working and learning environment. All VHCS students are encouraged to observe a standard of grooming and dress consistent with the importance of the school's mission of education. The purpose of the dress code is to give students a safe, orderly, and distraction-free learning environment. The Board and administration recognize and appreciate the role of parents in assisting their children in making appropriate choices regarding their clothing while attending school within the boundaries provided by this dress code. The school principal or his/her designee will have the final decision in determining whether apparel meets the system's dress code. Students in violation of the dress code will be required to change immediately. If this requires a student to checkout, the absence will be marked as unexcused. The Code of Conduct will be followed for dress code violations.

## Kindergarten – 12th Grade

Appearance, dress, or grooming style should not cause disruption or interference with the learning environment.

Students may wear shorts, dresses, skirts, etc. to school as long as they are at least mid-thigh length.

Clothing must cover under-garments at all times.

Students must wear appropriate shoes for a school setting at all times. \*Elementary students should wear shoes that allow them to participate safely in P.E. and recess during school. They should also wear shorts under skirts for P.E. and recess play.

Students may not wear hats or sunglasses inside of the building. (Exceptions will be announced in advance.)

Students may not wear clothing that is inappropriate, offensive, or revealing. This includes the following:

- Clothing that is too baggy
- Clothing that is sheer, see-through, or has holes above mid-thigh
- Undergarments worn as outerwear
- Leggings or tights without a top that covers appropriately
- Bare-midriff, backless, or strapless garments, or tank tops without another shirt that complies with the dress code
- Anything that could be viewed as obscene, vulgar, suggestive, or offensive. This includes clothes that promote violence or drug use; endorse alcohol or tobacco products; or contain messages with any sexual content.