

DRESS CODE

The Board and administration recognize the effects that student dress and grooming have upon student behavior and commitment to learning. School is a learning environment and clothing worn to school should not be a distraction to others. Students attending school in the Russell County School District must wear clothing that is comfortable, clean, in good repair, and school appropriate. Clothing, hair, and other items that students wear to school must not disrupt the educational process nor create any form of school disturbance.

The Board strongly believes it is the responsibility of students and parents or guardians to use reason, good judgment, and common decency in the choice of dress and physical grooming in the school setting. Therefore, it is believed that the following dress and appearance standards are essential to the orderly operation of the school based on health, sanitation, safety, and prevention of disruptive appearances at school:

- No student will be allowed to wear any type of clothing that, in the opinion of the administration, is too revealing, suggestive, provocative or otherwise inappropriate. Tops that expose undergarments, see-through apparel, clothing with low-cut necklines or spaghetti straps or clothing that exposes the midriff are not allowed.
- Appropriate undergarments for boys and girls must be worn at all times and may not be visible.
- Hats/caps, bandanas, scarves, visors, and any other form of headgear, except for JROTC and band uniform hats when worn with the uniform during performances, are not to be worn inside of the building. Hats and other headgear will be taken from the student.
- Students are required to wear garments as they are intended to be worn and in such a manner that is appropriate for school. Belts must be worn with pants that have belt loops, and pants must be worn at normal waistline. Under no circumstances will excessively baggy pants, low riding pants or oversized shirts or sweatshirts be allowed (an oversized shirt is defined as – bottom of shirt cannot hang below the wrist). No large belt buckles or chains will be allowed.
- Students are allowed to wear walking shorts not to exceed three inches (3") above the knee. All shorts must be hemmed. All other apparel will be worn no more than three inches (3") above the knee. Slits in dresses and skirts must meet the three-inch requirement. Excessively tight, short, or form fitting clothing such as bodysuits, biker shorts or spandex clothing cannot be worn to school.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Shower shoes and house shoes will not be allowed. If shoes are to be laced up with shoelaces, they must be laced at all times.
- Articles of clothing or accessories which show or allude to by slogan, picture or drawing, any inflammatory, suggestive, offensive or obscene behavior or alcoholic, drugs, or tobacco products will not be allowed.
- Articles of clothing with cut or ripped out areas will not be allowed.
- Bathrobes, pajamas, and boxer shorts worn as outer garments will not be allowed.
- Straps of overalls or suspenders must be worn over the shoulder.
- Sunglasses or dark glasses may not be worn inside the building unless authorized by doctor's prescription.
- Earrings must be worn in the ear(s) only. For student safety, no other body piercing with rings or other jewelry is permitted. No tongue studs or facial jewelry will be allowed.
- All inappropriate tattoos must be covered.

Inappropriate clothing items include the following:

- √ Any items symbolic of gang attire (students all dressing alike, i.e. white t-shirts, red t-shirts, camouflage pants, etc.).
- √ Clothing containing slogans or logos depicting vandalism, bigotry, violence, sexual connotations, suicide, secret organizations, intimidation, harassment or those with double meaning, or anything inflammatory.
- √ Clothing with logos or wording promoting/ referring to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- √ Any clothing that is too revealing for male or female students. Examples include tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, cut-off tops, tube tops, bathing suits, sports bras or midriffs, muscle shirts or tops that are low at the underarm, etc.
- √ Sport shorts, biking shorts, sweat pants/shorts.
- √ Spiked accessories, chains (including those attached to wallets and/or belt loops), jewelry, or other accessories/items.
- √ Hats, bandanas, visors, sunglasses, hoods, or other headgear (inside of the buildings).
- √ Trench coats or other coat types that extend below the knee.
- √ Oversized pants (e.g. Hobos, etc.)
- √ Sleepwear or clothing patterned after sleepwear.
- √ Tops or shirts that do not cover the midriff when arms are raised.
- √ Clothes containing holes.

In all instances, school administrators will determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress. Students in violation of the dress code will be sent to the office and given the opportunity to change clothes, or allowed to call a parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes that conforms to the dress code. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted and the student does not wish to change clothes, the student will be removed from class and assigned to an alternative location until parent/guardian can be contacted. The students' discipline will be addressed according to the student code of conduct. Repeated violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary action being taken.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER DRESS CODE

The Alternative Learning Center is permitted to designate uniform or apparel for students to wear. The school shall present their choice to the Board of Education for review. Students who have financial reasons and can demonstrate they cannot afford to purchase or acquire a uniform shall not be denied admission to school for that reason, but a parent conference will be held to discuss alternatives.

ALC DRESS CODE SUMMARY

Uniform – Boys and Girls

White Polo Shirts

Khaki Pants

Tennis Shoes or Ordinary Shoes

*No oversized clothing allowed.

*All shirts must be tucked in.

* No shower shoes, flip-flops, bedroom shoes, or heels.

*Pants are to be worn on or above the waist.

Coats – Boys and Girls

Hooded garments may be worn to school as long as the hoods are not worn indoors.

Hats – Boys and Girls

No head coverings such as: caps, bandanas, do-rags, sweatbands, etc...

Jewelry – Boys and Girls

No jewelry with reference to gangs, drugs, hats, violence, weapons, or sex is allowed. Items such as chains on a belt, wallet, and items with spikes are not permitted.