

## **Shelby County Schools Dress Code Policy**

A standardized dress code of Shelby County Schools has been adopted to assure that all students are provided safe and appropriate educational opportunities which are free from unnecessary disruptions or outside influences and to instill in students the need to dress appropriately and have respect for each other and authority. For young people, especially teenagers who are beginning to find their true identities in the middle of peer-pressure and parent prodding, dress is an important issue. For the younger children, lifetime habits of taste and dress are greatly affected by their childhood dressing patterns. This dress code will be strictly enforced in all Shelby County Schools, middle through high school.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following explanation behind the choice of the standards.

The way a person dresses reflects the way he thinks. We want to prepare students for the world of work, and we believe a neat professional appearance is a good habit to develop in the childhood years.

Just as students would dress one way for a picnic or ball game, there is an appropriate way to dress for school.

A well-groomed student should come to school with an attitude that prepares him or her for neat, conscientious work. His or her attire should give him or her respect for self, fellow students, and teachers.

Students who have questionable or inappropriate dress will not be allowed to attend class. The following items will serve as a minimum guide to acceptable dress for Shelby County students.

Any school modifying the Shelby County Board of Education Dress Code must obtain Superintendent approval. All modifications must be presented in writing to students prior to enforcement.

### **Dress Code Guidelines:**

- A. All students must wear shirts, blouses, or dresses with a collar or with a non-revealing neckline, such as crew neck, jewel neck, or boat neck. Low cut, open back, bare midriff or clothing that allows the midriff to be exposed, are not permitted.
- B. Male students must wear sleeved garments. Female students may wear sleeveless garments which adequately cover undergarments. Spaghetti and/or thin-strapped shirts may be worn only if over another T-shirt or if covered by a blouse with sleeves. Only sleeveless blouses or dresses in which the shoulder is fully covered from the base of the neck to top of arm will be considered acceptable.
- C. No obscene language and/or illegal substance advertisements (to include alcoholic and tobacco advertisements) may be worn on clothing or accessories.**
- D. No hats, caps, head coverings, hair curlers, picks, or sunglasses will be worn in school.
- E. Skirts, shorts and dresses must be mid-thigh or longer in front and back. No slits or leg openings may be above mid-thigh. Leggings should be worn with the appropriate outer garment (i.e. shorts, dress, or skirt of proper length.)
- F. Belts must be worn at the waist with pants, shorts, and skirts that have belt loops. Pants, shorts, and skirts without belt loops must be worn at the waist and should fit properly. Pants worn too low, too long, too large, too tight, or too loose are not permitted. Pajama style pants, snap aways, and sweatpants are prohibited. Athletic type pants may be worn only during physical education classes. (Including but not limited to, wind suit pants and soccer shorts.)

- G. Shirts must be tucked in at all times unless designed to be worn on the outside. Belt buckles must be visible on shirts that are tucked in.
  - H. Jackets and coats are to be worn in good taste. Generally, these are inappropriate to be worn in the classroom.
  - I. Students are required to wear appropriate shoes at all times. Shoes with wheels are not appropriate for the school environment.
  - J. Students' clothing should be neat and clean and should not be in noticeable disrepair. Unhemmed (cut-off) shorts, skirts, shirts, or pants, inappropriate slits, or holes in clothing are not allowed.
  - K. Students are prohibited from wearing nose, tongue, eyebrow and body jewelry, and visible tattoos. Earrings, hairstyles, and other adornments that draw attention to oneself in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process are also prohibited.
  - L. Appropriate undergarments must be worn and not visible.
  - M. Students are prohibited from wearing any metal chains, metal spiked apparel, over-sized belt buckles, or accessories.
  - N. Students are to wear clothing in the manner it is designed to be worn, i.e., clothing worn backwards or inside out is not allowed. No excessively tight or revealing clothing, such as fishnet or see-through garments, may be worn.
  - O. Students are prohibited from wearing any sign, symbol, logo, or garment, which has become synonymous with any gang, cult, Satanism, or unauthorized club or organizational activity. This also includes any avenue for the promotion of products or activities prohibited by school policy or that is inflammatory and may generate negative feelings among the student body.
- The above items serve as a minimum guide. The principal shall have the discretion to outline other appropriate guidelines for their campus or for special occasions.