

# Who, What, Why and How Student Dress Code Committee

DEIC Report 2-28-13



# Who?



# Who



- 6 parents representing students in elementary, intermediate and high school
- 7 KISD teachers representing elementary, middle and high school
- 6 KISD campus administrators representing intermediate, middle and high school
- 3 KISD Board members representing all KISD students

**What?**



# Goal of the Committee

- It is the goal of the student dress code committee to make recommendations for revision to the KISD Student Dress Code for implementation in the 2012-2013 school year.



**Why?**



# Reasons to Have a Student Dress Code

- Safety
- Decreased violence
- Improved student achievement
- Promotion of a positive educational environment



# How?





# Articles & Videos

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

## The Student Dress Code Debate

By Melinda Swafford, Lee Ann Jolley and Leigh Southward

**SCHOOL SYSTEMS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES** are faced with increasing concerns regarding student dress. Schools often address these concerns by enforcing dress codes, which are sometimes referred to as Appropriate School Attire (ASA), or by mandating school uniforms. The basis behind a school system implementing dress codes or school uniforms ranges from student concerns, to health and safety issues, to attempts to ensure that the school's classroom environment is conducive to learning. The issues surrounding a school system's decision to mandate student dress are controversial and, in one view, worthy of careful consideration of education developmental issues. Additionally, we propose that a review of research studies that have attempted to either validate the importance of mandating school dress or discredit their importance is helpful to school systems faced with making such decisions.

**Understanding the Mindset of Teens**  
The teen years are often depicted as being full of conflict, turmoil, alienation, rebellion, risk behaviors and challenges. Conflicts and challenges often surface over issues of dress between parents, school administrators and students. Adolescents may view these conflicts and challenges as a violation of individual rights (Frederick, Workman, and Lantz-Hess, 2004).

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Clothing choices are especially important for adolescents as they transition and make the transition to adulthood. Adolescents view dress as a symbol of identification, self-expression, as well as a regulator of expected behavior. According to Riquita, Okie, and Robinson (2008), Erikson identified the chief developmental task of adolescence as the confrontation of the crisis of identity versus identity confusion or identity versus role confusion.

In order to mark progress toward the resolution of this crisis in development, an adolescent seeks to develop a sense of self, determine goals, values and beliefs, and explore what role he or she will play in life. This exploration of life possibilities leads to changes in self-concept and provides the basis for the development

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of a personal identity. Since peers are an important influence, and fitting peer relationships is a major developmental task of adolescence, they tend to conform to the most obvious aspect of peer culture—dress. Workman, American, and Ewell (2004) suggest that the developmental task of adolescence may be resolved or hindered by clothing choices, as these choices are a reflection of individual experience and are important in peer integration and acceptance.

Adolescents can dress (e.g., message T-shirts) to convey attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, values, and group affiliations that immediately communicate their identity, autonomy, peer group integration, sociopolitical awareness, individuality, and self-expression (Workman, American, and Ewell).

Therefore, adolescent clothing choices may intentionally or unintentionally reveal information about their personalities, backgrounds, interests and contribute to the establishment of a reputation. Workman, American, and Ewell's study suggests empirical evidence to justify a school

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school dress code TFCU News

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## Implications of school dress code

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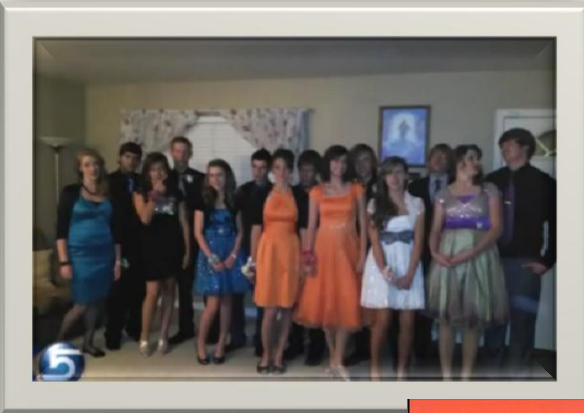
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LEADERSHIP MATTERS

## The Student Dress Code Debate (Part II)



By Melinda Swafford, Lee Ann Jolley and Leigh Southward

**Editors note:** Schools and school districts face the challenge of meeting students' needs for a safe and secure educational environment conducive to learning, to meet of groups, and to fit in with peers. School districts across the country have adopted dress codes governing the way students dress for school. The U.S. Department of Education reported that about one in five public schools, including early colleges, required students to wear uniforms during the 2007-2008 school year. This is the second of a two-part series by family and consumer sciences educators looking at the relationship between dress and behavior among high school students. The first part was featured last month.

### Implications and Court Rulings

What implications, then, does our research study have regarding the debate to require school dress codes or school uniforms? It may depend on the school system's reason for the policy. It is our view that there is not a significant relationship between the level of offensiveness in attire and a student's behavioral problems at school, and the adoption of a dress code policy will not significantly impact school attendance or behavior.

With regard to dress code policies, it is important to note that many court systems attempt to make a distinction between dress codes that govern freedom of expression and those that regulate message content. Wisniewski (2000)

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# Review of Comparison Districts

District	Dress Code Look Fors...																	
	Grade level specific codes provided?	definition of terms provided (i.e. modesty)	language used to address current fashion trends	Pictures of appropriate and/or inappropriate dress provided	specifics provided on length of shorts/skirts	hair color addressed?	Cleavage addressed?	Jewelry addressed?	ear gauges addressed?	Tattoos addressed?	Pajamas/Sleepwear addressed?	Sagging pants addressed?	Holes in clothing addressed?	Footwear/Shoes addressed?	Banquet attire addressed?	Allowances made for religious and/or medical reasons?	Gender identity addressed?	Administrator discretion provided?
Adams 12 Five Star	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Aldine ISD	9th grade and up	yes, with very specific examples provided	very specific examples used to address various fashion statements	no, just outlined in writing	yes (must approach the knee)	yes (unnatural hair colors are prohibited)	yes (no cleavage can be visible)	yes (must not reflect or suggest in any manner drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, vulgar language, violence, death or satanic ideolog[ua]l)	yes (only visible body piercings allowed are earrings for girls)	Yes (same as jewelry - must be covered up and not visible)	yes (are not permissible as outer garments)	yes (pants must be worn at the proper height, around the waist. Exposure of undergarments is unacceptable.)	yes (out, torn, or ripped clothing is prohibited)	Yes (flip flops, slides, stiletto heels, house slippers, and shoes with cleats and/or skate-shoes are prohibited)	no	nothing specifically mentioned	no	yes
Austin ISD	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X			X
Birdville ISD	Y	some	some- allowed leggings but must have top covering; no gothic wear	N	Y - Different for elementary and secondary	Y	Y- no low out dresses and blouses	Y	N- no spiked jewelry or "grills"; only pierces in the ears	Y- must be covered	Y	Y - Not allowed	Y- not allowed	Y - no heellies; no flipflops at recess and PE	N	Y	no	Yes- up to the principal
Carroll ISD	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Cedar Rapids	No - individual schools	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Edmond School	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Francis Howell	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes. "exagerated sagging"	No	"Must be worn"	No	No	No	Yes
Grapevine	No	No	No	No	Yes, fingertip length	Yes, no extreme style or color	No	Yes, no gang, drug or weapon	No	No	No	Yes, no abnormal gait or revealing underwear; at waist level and properly fitting	Yes, no torn or holey	Yes, no house shoes, heelljs	No	No	No	Yes
HEB ISD	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			



# Development of Proposals

## DRESS AND GROOMING

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Principal discretion will be used in addressing any dress code issues which may adversely affect the educational atmosphere of the school.

All students are expected to adhere to common practices of modesty, cleanliness and neatness; to dress in a respectful manner within the acceptable standards of the community and in such a manner as to contribute to the academic atmosphere, not detract from it.

Students who fail to comply with this dress code may be sent home and may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

1. Students' hair shall be clean, neat, and well-groomed. Hair styles and color shall not, in the opinion of the administration, cause a health or safety hazard or cause a disruption of the educational process.

2. Students shall wear clothing and undergarments in keeping with their gender.

### Shirts/Tops

- No half-length, strapless, backless, halter, cut-off or bare-midriff shirts/blouses shall be worn.
- No sheer or see-through garments will be permitted.
- Shirts must cover to the point of the shoulder.
- Shirts must have appropriate coverage of undergarments. Underarms and undergarments must be completely covered at all times.
- No cleavage shall be visible. Low cut blouses, tops, sweaters, etc. with plunging necklines are not allowed.

### Pants/Shorts

- Pants and shorts must be worn at the natural waistline. Belts must be worn if pants will not stay at the natural waistline. Exposure of undergarments is unacceptable.
- The minimum length of any garment, regardless of what it is called, must be no higher than 4 inches from the top of the knee.
- Cut-outs or holes of any kind may not be above the top of the knee.
- Slits in skirts cannot be higher than 4 inches from the top of the knee.
- No cut-off shorts shall be worn.
- Form-fitting/skin tight pants, such as leggings, yoga pants, and tights, must be covered with a top/shorts reaching no higher than 4 inches above the top of the knee. Leggings/tights may not substitute as pants.
- Athletic shorts must follow dress code regulations except during athletic periods or activities as approved by coaches.

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### Standardized Dress Code for All Levels

(pictures to be attached)

Elementary – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Rationale: KISD wants to promote the safety and positive image of all its students in such a way that their personal appearance promotes the high standards of intentional exceptionality.

Apparel must be neat, clean, modest and worn appropriately. Clothing that is obviously inappropriate for school activities must not be worn and the decision of the principal will determine the appropriateness of the apparel.

Clothing, makeup, jewelry, patches, tattoos, or designs on clothing must not reflect or suggest in any manner drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, vulgar language, gang affiliation, violence, death or satanic ideology.

Shirts: must be collared with sleeves, polo or oxford styled, and must be solid colored. All shirts must be buttoned up to the collar bone.

- Logos must be manufactured logos
- Jackets and sweaters are not considered shirts
- Shirts can be any of the solid colors specified by each campus administration
- Shirts must be tucked in with belt (solid, plain, black or brown with no designs)

Pants: Must be jeans or khaki pants of solid color (brown, blue or black). Shorts may also be worn, but must also be of solid color (brown, blue or black) and of appropriate length. Skirts/skorts and jumpers may also be worn and must be of a solid color (brown, blue, or black) and of appropriate length.

- Pants or jeans must be free of rips, cuts, tears, and fraying
- Pants or jeans can have no more than 5 pockets (no cargo pants)
- Pants and jeans must be size appropriate to the student (no jeggings, leggings, spandex pants, baggy jeans/pants), so that they are neither too loose nor too tight
- Shorts, skirts/skorts and jumpers must be no more than 4 inches above the knee
- No slits in skirts/skorts or jumpers

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# Administrator and Student Feedback

## Campus Administrator Feedback: Proposal One – Revisions to Current Code

Plus	Delta
<p>Here is my input: I prefer and vote – if we are voting – for <b>Dress and Grooming</b></p> <p>The language used and the format is more professional and leaves some room for discretion for the administration.</p> <p>There are steps listed if appropriate attire is unable to be acquired in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Addresses more - Covers more area – i.e. School dances – mums – corsages – athletics ...</p> <p>It is very clear and concise</p>	<p><i>No sheer or see-through garments will be permitted.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I understand the intent, but it could be misinterpreted. So many things are sheer and worn on top of another top. Are these acceptable?</li> </ul> <p><i>Shirts must cover to the point of the shoulder.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I read this as the necessary width for sleeveless garments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Underarms and undergarments must be completely covered at all times.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This sounds like nothing can be sleeveless. Your underarms show with sleeveless. Confusing</li> </ul>
<p>I absolutely love proposal 1! It seems to have identified problem areas with, and strengthened, the current KISD dress code. I really like the 4" above the knee for shorts and skirts...we deal with that issue constantly and this will alleviate any concerns there. I just think the committee did a tremendous job strengthening the current dress code! It needed to be strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not sure about the can't show underarms....I don't monitor spaghetti straps much at the elementary level.</li> <li>Interesting info. gg the mums only in high schools...not that I agreed with it but did have a student wear a mum this year. It would be one other thing to enforce – it was not a distraction</li> <li>4 inches – this will be a stretch with long legged girls –</li> <li>Sent home and ISS is not appropriate for elementary....not necessary and lost instructional time.</li> </ul>
<p>Proposal 1 – is the best option unless we are considering going to what is considered "uniforms" in what is described in Proposal 2.</p> <p>Proposal 1 – has excellent changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No holes below the knee, etc.</li> <li>Athletics, cheerleading and other groups are addressed</li> <li>The consequences of being out of dress code is clear, step by step of the process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 4 inch rule above the knee - This will be difficult to enforce especially for girls that are taller or having long legs</li> </ul>
<p>I think that proposal one looks great. It has all of the things that a regular dress code policy would have. It leaves everything really to the discretion of the administrator – which for the secondary level is always best.</p>	<p>"To the point of the shoulder" on shirts might still be vague for many. Could we do a 3 or 4 finger rule instead or an inch amount for width similar to 4 inches above knee for pants?</p>

## Student Feedback: Proposal 1 - Revise Current

Plus	Delta
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No inappropriate clothes</li> <li>Tattoos must be covered</li> <li>Appropriateness and moderation</li> <li>Kids shall not wear tattoos at all</li> <li>No extreme contact lense</li> <li>Love how we should wear clothes to support our gender</li> <li>Skirts Shouldn't be so long</li> <li>No inappropriate clothing</li> <li>Low tops, pants Not sagging</li> <li>Pants at waist only</li> <li>Athletic Shorts</li> <li>I think you can do your hair however you want</li> <li>Not wearing bad symbols on shirts</li> <li>School dances all dress code</li> <li>Warning only for dress code</li> <li>No see through</li> <li>I like the 4 inch thing</li> <li>We should be able to wear shorts, skinny tanktops, and ripped jeans</li> <li>Tell them about the bad thing your wearing</li> <li>No exposing</li> <li>No cleavage</li> <li>Yes commons</li> <li>Yes you should keep your head clean</li> <li>Yes bring shorts small</li> <li>I think it's good how they have it</li> <li>No half length cut off shirts shall be worn</li> <li>Good proposal except the pants and hats</li> <li>We should be able to wear short shorts, spaghetti tank tops and ripped jeans</li> <li>No half cut sleeves</li> <li>No undergarments shown, no bandanas, no princess, no holes, hair doesn't matter</li> <li>From CHS Principals' Council Students 90% would be in favor of proposal 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No heels allowed in school</li> <li>Parents choose our dress</li> <li>Short under 4 inches</li> <li>No Cleats</li> <li>No bandannas</li> <li>No sunglasses</li> <li>The school should be able to wear half shirts and should be able to wear short shorts</li> <li>We should be able to wear shorts right above the knee and able to wear whatever underneath as long as its comfy, crop tops and athletic shorts</li> <li>No hats in school</li> <li>No tattoos at all</li> <li>We should be able to wear any shoes</li> <li>No hoods</li> <li>No mums</li> <li>we should wear contacts</li> <li>Don't like the rule against hats</li> <li>Shorts can be a little shorter</li> <li>Tank tops, strapless and cut offs should be allowed</li> <li>No shirts with inappropriate graphics</li> <li>No tank tops</li> <li>No colored hair</li> <li>No leggings or yoga pants</li> <li>No pointed jewelry</li> <li>ISS</li> <li>Shirts must cover the shoulder</li> <li>No house shoes, slippers, cleats, and other similar shoes.</li> <li>Leggings are pants if they are not see through</li> <li>Hats should be worn</li> <li>I don't like the hair well groomed</li> <li>Should be able to wear half shirts</li> <li>Pictures or logos of alcohol should not be allowed</li> <li>Should be able to wear low cut shirts with tank tops underneath</li> <li>You should be allowed to wear mums</li> <li>No commons</li> <li>No shirts with distractions</li> <li>V-neck shirts should be allowed</li> <li>The hair style and color</li> <li>There was a question about spacers being permitted if flesh colored as well as the yoga pants being allowed as long as skirt or shorts were over them and the correct length.</li> </ul>
<p>It needs to be stated district wide if unnatural hair colors are allowed or not. The current dress code says the unnatural colors are not allowed, but some schools ignore the rule. Don't leave it up to the administration.</p>	<p>*Cut-outs or holes of any kind may not be above the top of the knee. Pants should not have holes</p>

**Next  
Steps...**

