

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

This regulation specifies standards that promote a positive and safe learning environment for students. Annual notice of this regulation shall be provided to students, parents, and staff. In addition, each school site council or other school committee shall regularly review these standards. District and school dress codes shall be enforced on the school campus and at any school-sponsored activity. Appropriate dress for school dances, graduation activities and other special events will be communicated to parents and students by the school.

1. Students shall dress appropriately for educational activities in which they will participate so as not to endanger their health, safety, or welfare, or that of others, or cause a disruption to the educational process. The following articles of clothing are not permitted:

- Back-less or strap-less tops
- Low-cut tops and dresses
- Bare-midriff tops
- Shorts, skirts, pants, and tops that fail to conceal undergarments
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses that are shorter than middle fingers length when arms are at the side

2. Footwear shall be worn at all times unless not required as part of an instructional activity.

3. Clothing, accessories, and jewellery shall be free of writing, pictures, symbols or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, obscene, libelous, slanderous, or sexually suggestive. Clothing, accessories, or jewellery that degrade any cultural, religious or ethnic values, that advocate racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice or discrimination, or that promote sex, the use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol or any unlawful acts are prohibited.

4. Hats, caps, and other head coverings are not to be worn in school buildings.

5. Dark glasses shall not be worn indoors, except for valid medical reasons authorized by the administration and verified in writing by a physician.

6. Gang-related clothing or accessories, including but not limited to bandannas, or other symbols, emblems, or insignia are prohibited. School officials shall consider student history and information obtained from community agencies and resources when making these judgments.

Any clothing, jewellery or accessories, which create a safety or health concern, or cause, or threaten to cause a disruption to the educational process, is prohibited.

Exceptions may be made by the administration for special days, special events, or activities. Appropriate consequences shall be specified and implemented according to the district discipline policies.

It is the responsibility of all H.J. Cody staff members to follow and enforce this policy.

DRESS CODE VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

Students who appear wearing inappropriate clothing will not be allowed to attend class until they make the changes necessary to meet the H.J. Cody High School Dress Code. Changes could entail removing objectionable clothing items, removal from the normal class setting, or contacting parents to return home to obtain appropriate clothing.

First Offense:

- Warning (documented).
- Student may be sent home or placed in ISS (In-school Suspension) if he/she cannot or will not change or remove objectionable clothing items.

Second Offense:

- Parent contact.
- Student may be sent home or placed in ISS if he/she cannot or will not change or remove objectionable clothing items.

Third Offense:

- Suspension of one to three days (ISS).
- Parent contact for continued defiance of school rules.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child can learn in whatever they wear. What does it matter?

The dress code isn't just for your child, it is for everyone. Students who wear extremely tight or revealing clothing open themselves up to inappropriate comments and harassment. This type of harassment is not only distracting; it can lead to physical conflicts as well. It is our intent to minimize any potential for conflicts or fights and protect your child from harassment.

The current style for girl's clothes is short tops and low rise pants. Why is this not acceptable at school?

The way student's dress out of school is their business, the way students dress on campus is another matter. Students constantly push the boundaries that parents and schools set for them. If students were allowed to show skin at the midriff, the tops would get shorter and shorter. It is the same with plunging neck lines. Some students do not know how to set appropriate boundaries for dress, those that do often submit to peer pressure or fashion trends that compromise their own principles. This holds true for students who reveal their undergarments. Some boys wear their pants well below their buttocks, revealing their underwear. The same goes for girls who wear low rise pants and short tops. Their undergarments are often revealed to others. There have been many times when girls have worn "thong" underwear that is visible between their pants and tops. When they sit down, other students can see straight down the back of their pants.

This style is not appropriate for school. This style of dress is not only distracting to others but often brings inappropriate comments and innuendo to the wearer.

Why can't my student wear a hat or keep their hood on?

We do not allow students to wear their hats or sweatshirt hoods because it makes it difficult to identify students. It is important for school safety. Every year we are able to identify trespassers because they do not know our dress code and they are easy to spot. We know the majority of our students by sight. With hoods on, we cannot be sure who the person is.

My child dresses just fine. Why don't you just target those who do break the rules?

If your student dresses appropriately, that is wonderful, and dress code will never be a problem.

However, a blanket policy is created to take the bias out of decision making and presents a guideline by which ALL students are held to the EXACT same standard.