

Dress code helps students ‘dress for success’

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District prides itself on high academic and behavioral expectations. The district believes that school performance and future success are enhanced by appropriate dress and good grooming. The Dress Code is in effect for all elementary, middle and high school students while attending school functions or school sponsored activities on or off school grounds.

“Parents are strongly encouraged to work closely with the school to enforce moderate hairstyles and high standards of dress for their students,” said Isabell Clayton, principal, Cole Middle and High School. “Parents will be serving the welfare of our students and helping us as educators by emphasizing standards of neatness, cleanliness, safety, and decency in dress and grooming.”

Following are FSH’s dress code guidelines:

1. Hair must be neat and clean. Unconventional hairstyles (spiked hair or extreme hairstyles) that are considered to be distracting and/or disruptive to the educational environment are prohibited. Students may wear natural hair colors only.
2. Halter tops, exposed midriffs, strapless and / or low cut tops, exposed backs, spaghetti straps, see-through clothing, tank shirts and sleeveless athletic shirts are not permitted. Shirts and blouses must extend below the waistband, but cannot extend beyond the student’s fingertips when the student is standing. Shoulder straps on clothing must be worn on the shoulder. Underwear shall not be visible or exposed.
3. Clothing with inappropriate advertising or statements that are offensive or inflammatory (alcoholic beverage, sex, tobacco, drugs, gang, satanic, promoting violence, lewd, vulgar, obscene, disrespectful, etc) is prohibited at the discretion of the campus administration.
4. Appropriate footwear is required. Footwear that has toes and / or soles reinforced with steel, hard plastic or similar materials is prohibited. Footwear with wheels is prohibited.
5. Shorts will be permitted provided that the shorts are neatly hemmed and conservative and modest in appearance and must extend beyond the student’s fingertips when the student is standing or as determined appropriate by an administrator. Over-sized athletic shorts are prohibited. Bicycle shorts, gym shorts, basketball shorts are prohibited for students in grades 6 – 12. Form fitting and skin-tight shorts, pants, or body stockings of spandex worn alone, or other similar materials worn alone are prohibited.
6. Pants and shorts shall be worn securely at the waist. Sagging is prohibited. Excessively worn, torn, over-sized or long clothing is not permitted. Underwear shall not be visible or exposed. Pants or shorts held up by drawstrings or elastic are prohibited for students in grades 6 – 12. Warm-up suits, sweat suits or wind pants except during P.E. classes are prohibited in grades 6 – 12.
7. Dresses, skirts, skorts and split-skirts will be permitted provided that they are neatly hemmed, conservative, and modest in appearance and must extend beyond the student’s fingertips when the student is standing or as determined appropriate by an administrator. Excessively high slits in skirts will not be permitted.
8. Body piercing ornaments and other similar ornaments will be worn on the ear only.
9. Visible tattoos must be covered.
10. Hats, caps, or other head apparel (“do rags”, bandanas) are not permitted with the exception of JROTC, PE classes with permission of the teacher, or those that meet medical needs of students. Hoods on hooded sweatshirts, shirts, and jackets may not be worn during instructional time or while in the building.
11. Any apparel or attire that is considered to be distracting and / or disruptive to the educational environment (ex. pajamas, lounging undershirts, pajama style clothing, temporary or permanent cosmetics, ornamental dental applies, “grills” house shoes, shower shoes, hair curlers, sunglasses, spikes or chains of any type) or is considered a safety concern is prohibited.

While it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion as to the appropriateness of dress, grooming, and / or determining whether or not a student’s attire is disruptive or distracting to the educational environment of the school, the final determination will be made by the campus administration. Students who choose to violate the dress and grooming code will be sent to an administrator for clarification and/or disciplinary action. Parents will be contacted and requested to bring a change of clothes so that the student will be in compliance with the dress code. Repeated violations of the dress code will be construed as insubordination and further disciplinary consequences will be incurred by the student.