

SJH | DRESS CODE POLICY

2021-2022

STUDENT DRESS CODE

SJH Dress Code was a collaboration between students and staff to create a fair and equitable policy for ALL.

Dress Code Philosophy

Sealy Junior High's student dress code supports equitable educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

Our Values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school to engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- Student dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- School staff should be able to use student/body-positive language to explain the code and to address code violations.
- Teachers should focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized whenever possible.

Our student dress code is designed to accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as science (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights), or PE (athletic attire, shoes).
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs, or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that will interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, invade the rights of others, or create a reasonably foreseeable risk of such interference or invasion of rights.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is racist, lewd, vulgar or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech, or threats to others.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

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Dress Code

Sealy Junior High expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day for any school-sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school district is responsible for seeing the student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student, and that dress code enforcement does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size. Any restrictions to the way a student dresses must be necessary to support the overall educational goals for the school and must be explained within this dress code.

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that privates, buttocks, and breasts are fully covered with opaque fabric. All items in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.
2. Students Must Wear,* while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:
 - A Shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms) extending to pants/jeans or the equivalent, AND
 - Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), AND
 - Shoes.

* Activity-specific shoe requirements are permitted (for example, athletic shoes for PE).

Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- Religious/ Medical headwear
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants, and "skinny jeans"
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks, and skin above mid-thigh are not exposed
- Athletic attire

Students Cannot Wear:

- Hats or the hood of a hoodie sweatshirt.
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps; halter tops
- Visible waistbands or undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing.
- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping, or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments.
- Swimsuits
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance).
- Any items that expose skin above the mid-thigh.

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Dress Code Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have the discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.

- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 3 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 3 will be provided three (3) options to be dressed more to code during the school day:
 - Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
 - If available students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
 - If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of race, sex, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- Students should not be shamed or required to display their bodies in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
 - kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;
 - measuring straps or skirt length;
 - asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others;
 - Calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others;
 - Accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing.
- Dress code checks will be done as students enter "Homeroom" or by coaches at the end of the Athletic period.
- These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities.
- Refusal to comply with the dress code policy/procedure will result in disciplinary action.

Campus administrators are authorized to determine the suitability of student attire and grooming.