

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

DRESS CODE

2009-2010

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Good grooming and personal appearance are essential elements in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, it is expected that students dress in such a manner that will ensure health and safety, and not detract from the learning environment. Furthermore, dress and personal appearance are not to be disruptive or interfere with the educational interest and welfare of the students or the purposes of public school education.

Students in Alexander City Schools are expected to dress as follows:

1. Students must be neatly dressed, clean and well groomed while at school.
2. Hair must be clean and well groomed.
3. **BOYS:** Shirts, tee shirts, and athletic jerseys must be tucked in pants.
4. Shoes must be worn at all times by all students. Shoes must be tied and straps must be fastened at all times. Jim Pearson students must wear tennis shoes.
5. Shirts and blouses should have modest and appropriate necklines, arm openings, and closures such as crew neck, jewel neck, or boat neck. Undergarments must be worn. Female shirt straps must be no less than a credit card in width. Blouses and shirts must be long enough when arm is raised midriff does not show. Male shirts must have sleeves.
6. Dresses, skirts or shorts must be no shorter than 2 inches in length above the kneecap.
7. Pants must cover the pelvic girdle (hipbones).
8. Vocational shop, physical education, and lab classes may develop additional dress codes to promote safety for all students or to allow for mobility for specific activities.
9. With approval of the administration, activity sponsors may establish more restrictive rules for dress and grooming as a prerequisite for membership or participation in specific activities.
10. The principal or his/her designee will make the final judgment as to whether or not a student's clothing is appropriate for school wear. Attire for special days must be pre-approved by the administration.

Students in Alexander City Schools are prohibited from dressing as follows:

1. Shoes with spiked heels are prohibited.
2. Bare midriff tops, open backed tops, halters, cleavage revealing tops, and transparent garments are prohibited.
3. Cut off garments are prohibited.
4. Clothing or paraphernalia related to or associated with gang or cult affiliation or activity are prohibited. Belongings and garments must be void of controversial writings, drawings, and decals. This includes, but is not limited to, those which show firearms, alcoholic beverages or tobacco products; have obscene or suggestive statements, hand written

- messages, and/or illustrations, portray controversial and/or extremist groups, or which otherwise create a hostile and/or offensive learning environment.
5. Clothing worn backwards or in any unconventional manner is not allowed. "Slacking" WILL NOT be permitted.
 6. Form fitting garments and any type of underwear are not permitted as outerwear. Sweat pants and pajama pants are not permitted. Wind pants are only permitted in grades k-2.
 7. Sunglasses, themed contacts, hats, caps, bandanas, curlers, picks or other head covering may not be worn to school. Metal chains, wristbands, spiked apparel, or accessories are prohibited.
 8. Garments are not allowed to have holes, rips, frays, or tears above dress/short length.
 9. Facial jewelry, visible tattoos, ear stretchers, excessive beads or anything that draws attention to oneself in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process is prohibited.
 10. Students are not allowed to wear hair that covers the eyes.
 11. Oversized coats must be placed in lockers upon arrival at school. Only pullovers, sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts may be worn during the school day.

EMPLOYEE DRESS CODE

The professional status of staff members is reinforced by appropriate dress and appearance. Since students learn by example, it is important that employees serve as role models for students. Moreover, the community's attitude toward the school system and the education profession is related to the manner in which employees present themselves. Research has proven that there is a direct correlation between appropriate dress and how others perceive the individual as well as the organization. In addition, professional attire can be a useful tool in classroom management in that it can project an image of respect and authority and can help to establish a sense of formality.

All employees shall exercise good judgment in their choice of appearance at work by dressing in a way that is appropriate to the situation and in a manner that will invoke a positive impression with students and the community. Such professional dress should promote a working and learning environment that is conducive to high student and staff performance.

Faculty and staff must follow the dress code prescribed for students and set an example with the following exceptions:

1. Men – collared shirts. Male employees should wear collared shirts, such as polo style, oxford style or dress shirts (long or short sleeved).
2. Shorts and skorts are considered unprofessional and are not acceptable.
3. Jeans may only be worn on Friday.