

To: Dothan High School Students and Families
From: Dr. Erica Hall/ Student Discipline
Date: August 4, 2018
Subject: New Student Dress Code

Dress Codes are an important part of the climate of schools. At Dothan High, it is no different. Our goal is to always provide an environment that is free of distractions, safe, orderly and conducive to learning.

At the bottom of this memo, you will find the new Dothan High School Student Dress Code. This represents many months of work on the part of the DCS Code of Conduct Task Force, which consisted of both students and staff members from both high schools. We started this process by discussing the concerns about our current dress code and then researching dress codes from other schools around our state and nation. We considered a "uniform" of sorts (typically called a Standard Mode of Dress or SMOD) and many other possibilities. The group working on this task force felt that DCS didn't need to implement a uniform or SMOD at this time, but that we did need a more clearly defined set of criteria and we believe that we have accomplished this goal.

From an administrative perspective, this new dress code will be easier to enforce and will still allow students some freedom in the way they choose to dress while allowing us to meet the goal of a distraction free environment in our school. It is our goal to clearly communicate this information as the new dress code will be strictly enforced from the first day of school forward beginning in the 2018/2019 school year.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 334-794-1400 ext 368231 or erhall@dothan.k12.al.us. Thank you for your support of this effort and we look forward to working with you during the coming school year.

Dothan High School Student Dress Code 2018 - 2019

1. **Shorts, skirts, and dresses** may be worn. Dresses must have a collar. The length must be no higher than two inches (the length of a dollar bill) above the top of the kneecap when standing and walking, must not have holes that expose skin or undergarments, and must not expose skin or undergarments above the waistband. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should not be excessively tight fitting. If a skirt or dress has a slit, the slit must meet the same guidelines (no more than two inches above the top of the kneecap). Shorts must be worn at the waist (no sagging). If a belt is needed to hold shorts up, one must be worn.

2. **Pants** must not be excessively tight-fitting or expose skin more than two inches (the length of a dollar bill) above the top of the kneecap. Pants must not show skin/undergarments above the waistband and must be worn at the waist (no sagging). If a belt is needed to hold pants up, one must be worn. Denim jeans can be worn, but must not have holes that expose skin or undergarments. No slits, cuts, rips, or the illusion of such are allowed.

3. **Shirts/tops** must cover the midriff, waist, back, and cleavage, and must not be excessively tight fitting or see through. Shirts and tops must have a collar. Tank tops are not allowed, but can be worn under a button down top. However, the top cannot be open as to expose the tank top completely. Hoodies and jackets are allowed, but cannot be worn on the head while inside the school building.

4. **Shoes** must be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers and shoes without a strap are not allowed. This includes slides, flip flops, or sandals or any kind (including Birkenstock).

5. **Leggings** are allowed only when worn under a dress code approved clothing item (shorts, skirts, or dresses). They cannot be worn as a pant.

6. **Inappropriate apparel** such as pajamas or clothing representing drugs, tobacco, alcohol, sex, gangs, violence or are crude, suggestive or divisive in words or pictures may not be worn.

7. **Class shirts** or any clothing designed to represent Dothan High School or an organization at Dothan High School can be worn on school grounds. However, homemade shirts are not allowed.

8. **Athletic uniforms** may not be worn during the instructional day unless approved by administration.

9. **Items not allowed on campus:** blankets used as outerwear and other attire that is distracting to the learning environment. Items that could be used as a weapon, such as studded bracelets, studded belts, handcuffs, chains (including chains on wallets and hanging chains).

10. **Items not to be visible inside the building prior to 3:15pm:** hats, caps, tams, headgear (other than hair bows and headbands) and sunglasses. Full head wraps are not allowed.

*** The administration reserves the right to make the final decision in regard to appropriate and inappropriate dress as well as what is considered distracting to the learning environment. Please refer to page 32 of the DCS Code of Conduct for the complete dress code.

Consequences:

We will take a “zero tolerance” approach and students who are out of compliance will not be allowed to attend class and will be sent home for the remainder of that school day. If a student is unable to be picked up, s/he will be assigned to In School Suspension (ISS) for the remainder of that school day and given one day of Out of School Suspension (OSS) the following day.

For items 9 and 10, the item will be confiscated and turned in to the main office. All confiscated items will be returned on Friday of that week unless the item is confiscated on a Friday, in which case it will be returned the following Friday. The time for item pick up is between 3:20pm and 3:45pm. The office staff reserves the right to not return items after 3:35pm. Excessive confiscations (more than three) will be referred to administration for additional possible consequences.