



# Lexington High School

---

## Dress Code

### **Dress Code Philosophy:**

Lexington High School'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, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.

### **Dress Code Values:**

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and 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 be consistent, but not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized whenever possible.
- School staff should be able to use approaches to reduce body shaming to explain the dress code and to address code violations that are consistent with the dress code philosophy.
- Teachers should be allowed to focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.

### **Dress Code Goals:**

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where precautionary, protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as science lab courses (eye or body protection), or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.

- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of school 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.

### **Lexington High School Dress Code:**

Lexington High School is responsible for ensuring 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, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, 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 of the school and must be explained within this dress code. Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner while on school district property or representing the school in another location. Student dress choices should respect the Lexington County School District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

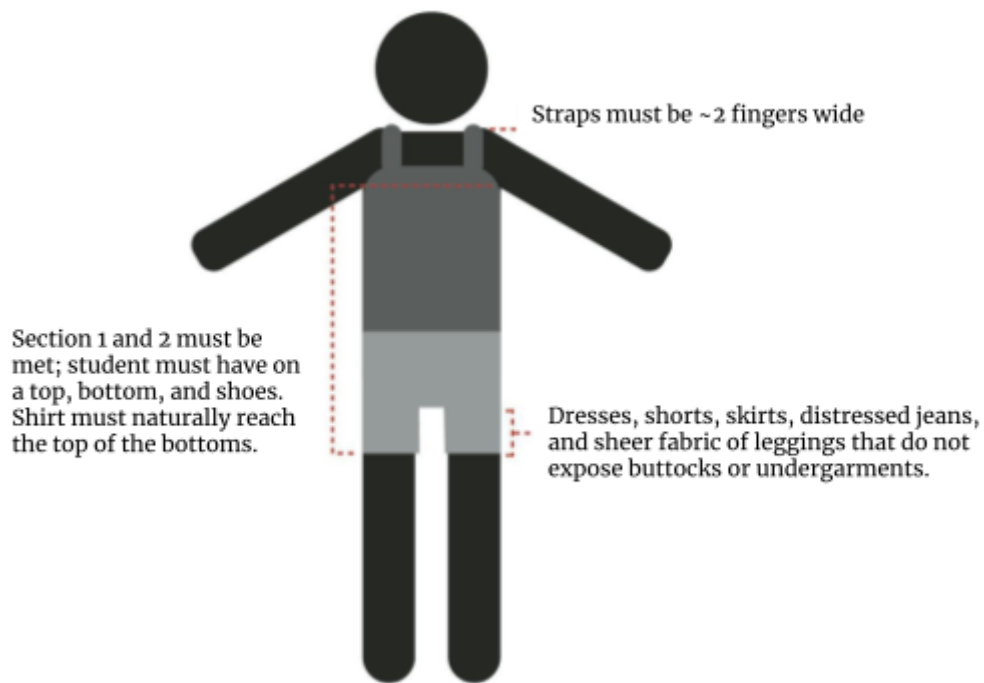
### **Section 1 - Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.**

- Clothes must be worn such that buttocks and breasts are fully covered with non see-through fabric at all times.
- All items listed in the "MUST wear" and "MAY wear" sections must meet section 1.

### **Section 2 – Students MUST wear, while following the basic principle in Section 1:**

- TOP: A shirt with fabric in the front, back, on the sides under the arms and over the shoulders that naturally touches the top of the bottoms, AND
- BOTTOMS: Pants/jeans/leggings/sweatpants/shorts/dress, AND
- Shoes

\*Some courses may require specific attire as part of the curriculum and/or safety of the student. These types of courses may include but are not limited to professionalism, public speaking, job readiness, PE, lab sciences, family/consumer sciences. The attire requirements should still keep the values and goals of the dress code in mind.



**Section 3 – Students MAY wear, AS LONG AS these items do not violate the basic principles in Sections 1-2:**

- Religious/cultural headwear as required by one's faith.
- Head coverings such as but not limited to: beanie, baseball/trucker caps, head scarfs, doo rags/ du rags, accessory hair bandana (non gang affiliated pattern) as long as the ears, eyes, and face are fully distinguishable and visible and does not impede on other students' vision in the classroom.
- Tank tops, as long as the straps are approximately two fingers wide (vertically).
- Visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing and over the shoulder (as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Section 1 above).
- Fitted pants, including non see-through/opaque leggings and skinny jeans.
- Dresses, shorts, skirts, distressed jeans, and sheer fabric/cutouts of leggings that do not expose buttocks or undergarments.
- Ripped jeans, as long as:
  - Open holes/rips that allow the skin to show through must not expose buttocks or undergarments
- Athletic attire.
- Hooded sweatshirts.

**Section 4 – Students CANNOT Wear:**

- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- Bulletproof vest, body armor, tactical gear, or replicas of the aforementioned items.
- 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 undergarments (visible straps are allowed at the shoulder).
- Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice).
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous to an individual or others and/or could be used as a weapon such as but not limited to: fish hooks, heavy chains, brass knuckles, sharp studded jewelry.
- Any item that covers the ears, eyes and/or face (except as a religious observance).

## **Section 5 – 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.

- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of an extreme dress code violation as outlined in Section 1 and 4 above.
- Dress code violations will be addressed at the first available time to minimize loss of instructional time, so that no instructional time is lost and so that the appropriate administrator or designee is available to address these violations.
- Students in simple violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided three options to be dressed more to code during the school day by school personnel upon entry and visibility onto school grounds:
  - 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. Alternative clothing may be in their bookbag, school/athletic locker, or car.
  - Students will be provided with the option of temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
  - If necessary, the students' parents/guardians 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 racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.

- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students or parents) in school. Students will have a private conversation with staff member(s). Shaming could include, but is not limited to:
  - Kneeling or bending over to check attire fit.
  - The measuring of clothing (strap width)
  - Asking students to account/explain their attire in the classroom or hallways in front of others.
  - Staff members will attempt to address dress code violations discreetly.
  - Accusing students publicly of “distracting” other students with their clothing.
- Teachers should use approaches that reduce body shaming and are consistent with the dress code philosophy when addressing a dress code violation with a student. Dress code violations should be addressed in a private manner.

- Students who feel they have been subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact the appropriate grade level administrator.

Dress code violations as outlined in Section 1 or 4 will be documented in Educator's Handbook as a minor offense by staff members. If repeated incidences of noncompliance with the code occurs after three times, administrators reserve the right to apply formal discipline including, but not limited to: parent phone call, detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension (contingent on the severity of noncompliance).

- Administration reserves the right to have the final say with regards to the interpretation of the dress code and whether a student is truly in violation. If something isn't blatantly inappropriate, our goal is to keep students in their classrooms and avoid unnecessary referrals. However, a safe and orderly learning environment must be maintained at all times.