

Staff Dress Code Guidelines

Dress for Success

Research reveals that the clothing worn by staff members affects the work, attitude, and discipline of students. You dress for four main effects:

1. Respect
2. Credibility
3. Acceptance
4. Authority

The effective staff member uses these four traits as assets in relating to students, peers, administrators, parents, and the community. If you have these four traits, you have a much greater chance of influencing young people to learn than someone who lacks these four traits.

“Clothing may not make a person, but it can be a contributing factor in unmaking a person. Whether we want to admit it, our appearance affects how we are perceived and received in definite ways. Clothing has nothing to do with students liking a staff member. But clothing definitely has an effect on students’ respect for a staff member, and respect is what a staff member must have if learning is to take place.”

The above is from Harry Wong in his chapter entitled “How to Dress for Success” from his book *The First Days of School*.

Modesty and Grooming

Modesty and grooming are important factors contributing to professional dress for school personnel. Staff should refrain from:

- Bare midriffs
- Tube or tank tops
- Spaghetti straps
- Frayed, holey, or shredded clothes (faded)
- Visible undergarments
- Visible cleavage
- Inappropriate skirt length
- Sweatpants and shorts (unless job appropriate)
- Shower or beach style shoes

Jeans

- Jeans are not to be worn. For events (such as outdoor education) where an employee feels jeans are appropriate, the employee is expected to discuss the event with his/her building principal before wearing them to work.

The above list is not all-inclusive. If a District 83 administrator deems that a staff member is not appropriately or professionally attired for the performance of duties within

an educational environment, he/she reserves the right to discuss the matter with that individual and request that the offending inappropriate attire not be worn again.

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