

HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
2007-2008
STANDARD DRESS POLICY
(For Kindergarten through High School)

Current Policy & Rationale for Change

• **Presently**

The Tennessee State Board of Education suggests that the criteria for a standard dress policy adopted by local boards of education should require standard dress clothing to be:

- Simple
- Appropriate
- Readily available
- Inexpensive

Hardeman County School Board Policy # 6.310 states the following: "Students shall dress and groom in a clean, neat, and modest manner so as not to distract or interfere with the operation of the school."

• **Rationale for Change**

The Hardeman County School System has the responsibility to enhance the educational focus, provide a safe and secure school, and establish an orderly learning environment. It is also our belief that by teaching students a proper and professional standard of dress it will aid our students in having a greater opportunity for success upon exiting our schools as well as having a positive effect upon the student's self esteem. In addition, standard dress will enable school personnel to easily recognize outside intruders and deter gang affiliation and activity. Changing fads and trends put increasing pressure on parents, students, and staff as well as deter from the educational mission of the schools.

The Manual on School Uniforms published by the U.S. Department of Education states the following as potential benefits of standard dress.

Promoting school safety

- Easily identify intruders in school
- Decrease violence and theft
- Minimize overt symbols of gang activity

Improving discipline

- A standard dress policy alone will not solve all the problems of school discipline, but it can be one positive contributing factor to discipline and safety.
- (TN State Board of Education-Uniform Clothing for Public School Students #4.203)

Enhancing the learning environment

- Help students concentrate on their work
- Instill a sense of school spirit, social pride, and social acceptance
- Aid students in resisting peer pressure
- Test scores increase due to students being more focused
- Reduce classroom distractions

STANDARD DRESS FOR HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Shirts – Only golf-type shirts (no zippers) and button-front shirts will be permitted. Only the top 2 buttons may be unbuttoned.

1. Must have a collar.
2. Must be a solid white or the designated school color.
3. Must be the appropriate size.
4. May be long or short sleeves.
5. Must not have any writing or pictures.
6. Must be tucked in and remain tucked in at all times.
7. There are to be no logos on the shirt other than the official school mascot logo that is allowed on the designated school color shirt.
8. Only white tee shirts may be worn underneath the approved golf or button-front shirt.
9. Short sleeve tee shirts may be worn with the approved short sleeve shirts.

Sweatshirts/Sweaters must be solid white or the designated school color. Solid color sweaters with v-necks, crew necks, cardigans or vests in the approved colors may be worn, but must be worn over the approved shirts. No brand names or wordings are allowed.

1. There are to be no logos on the sweater or sweatshirt.
2. Sweaters, sweatshirts, and vests should hang at the waist/belt line.
3. Hooded sweatshirts/sweaters of any kind may not be worn.
4. Sweaters or sweatshirts are not to be tied over the shoulders or around the waist.
5. Mock turtlenecks or turtlenecks in approved colors may be worn under the approved shirt. They must be solid color, the same color of the

approved shirt, and can not be worn by themselves only. Short sleeve turtlenecks may be worn under the approved short sleeve shirts.

Pants – Only khaki colored or navy blue twill pants (hemmed or cuffed) of a cotton or blend will be permitted.

1. Pants must be worn and fitted at the waist line.
2. Low slung, baggy seat, baggy legged, or bell-bottom pants are not permitted.
3. Shorts may be worn in grades K-3 but must come to the knee and be of the approved color and material that is required for pants. Shorts can not be worn after grade 3.
4. No jeans or jean type pants – khaki jeans are not allowed.
5. No rivets on pants.
6. Cargo pants, carpenter pants, or overalls are not permitted.
7. Pant legs can not be rolled up exposing the leg.
8. There are to be no holes, rips, or tears.

Belts must be worn through the belt loops and buckled. The belt buckle must be a plain buckle and shall not exceed 1 ½ inches in width. The belt must be brown or black, and not have any writing or logos.

Skirts/dresses – All skirts must be solid, khaki colored or navy blue, and be a twill cotton or blend.

1. Skirts must go to the knee.
2. There must be no slits in skirts above the knee.
3. All dresses that are worn must be solid khaki colored or navy blue and go to the knee.

Footwear-

1. Shoes are to be worn at all times.
2. Dress/casual shoes, sandals, or athletic shoes are to be worn and must be properly fastened.
3. Flip flops are **not** to be worn.
4. Boots are **not** permitted.
5. Shoes with heels taller than 1 ½ inches are **not** permitted.

Coats/Jackets –

1. All outer wear is to be removed and put in the locker or designated area during the school day.
2. Large, oversized coats and jackets or trench coats are not permitted within the school building.

3. Coats and jackets must not have drug, alcohol, gang related, gambling, or other such messages or pictures.

Headwear

1. No headwear is to be worn in the school building.
2. No sweatbands are to be worn in the school building.

Expectations & Consequences-

Students are expected to adhere to the standard dress policy at all times during the regular school day. If a student arrives at school and is not in compliance with the standard dress policy he/she will not be allowed to attend classes. The student will be detained and a parent will be called to bring appropriate clothing for the **first violation**. The **second violation** will result in a one-day in-school suspension; and **subsequent violations** will result in a conference with parents for further disciplinary consequences. (Note: elementary school principals may take special circumstances into consideration when there are violations of the standard dress policy.)

Teachers and staff members-

Teachers and all staff members are to dress in a professional manner. The standard dress of teachers and staff should not fall to a lower standard than that of the students. Consideration will be given in certain circumstances such as athletic coaches while not in the classroom and certain vocational teachers.

- **In matters of opinion pertaining to both the standard dress policy for the students and the expectations for the staff, the judgment of the administrator will prevail.**
- **All teachers, principals, and other employees of the Hardeman County School district must carry out the above school board policy and all other policies of the Hardeman County Board of Education and the State Board of Education.**