

DSST: Cole High School

Policy on Student Dress

DSST's Mission: DSST Public Schools transforms urban public education by eliminating educational inequity and preparing all students for college and the 21st Century.

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

Educational inequity extends from societal inequity, and thus we have created our Policy on Dress in an effort to help prepare all students to understand, identify, and combat inequity. We recognize that a dress code is, by its nature, inequitable in that it is created by those with influence and intentionally restricts choice. However, we feel the only two truly equitable dress codes would be to have a uniform or to allow students to wear whatever they want. We believe a uniform goes too far in restricting a student's ability to be valued for who they are as an individual. But we also feel that full choice in dress is counter to our Mission in that it does not adequately prepare students to live in or to transform our society.

Therefore we have crafted our Policy on Dress with the following purposes in mind:

1. **Respect:** We are proud that our Mission leads us to create integrated schools. Integrated schools benefit by having students and families from diverse cultures. We want to celebrate this diversity and recognize that each culture and each individual has a different view on how students should dress. We have crafted a Policy on Dress that we believe allows students to express their individuality while still respecting the diverse beliefs and values of everyone in our community.
2. **Community:** Our Dress Code gives us a commonality that allows students to identify as members of this community while still expressing their individuality. It is our belief that this dress code will allow people inside and outside of the community to recognize our commonalities while celebrating our differences.
3. **Transparency Regarding Influence and Privilege:** Some in our society (including those in positions of influence) make assumptions about people based on what those people are wearing. Guidelines for Intentional Dress teaches students how those with influence expect them to dress for specific situations (such as a college interview) and to give them practice dressing intentionally for these situations. With this transparency, knowledge, and practice, students will be able to choose how they dress intentionally for each situation.
4. **Safety:** We are committed to student safety and have crafted a dress code that reflects that commitment.

DSST: Cole Dress Code

COMMUNITY EXPECTATION OF CONTENT

It is the intention of our community to lift each other up and celebrate our differences and cultures. We strive to honor who you are without tearing others down.

The community expectation is that clothing does not:

- Reference drugs or alcohol
- Include gang identifiers
- Include cursing or derogatory language
- Depict or glorify violence
- Objectify any person or group
- Include references that can be construed or interpreted as hateful or hurtful to others

SHIRTS/TOPS:

All tops must cover the entire torso. Sleeveless shirts may be worn, but must cover to the shoulder. Spaghetti straps or “skinny” strap tanks may not be worn.

PANTS/BOTTOM:

All bottoms must fully cover the student to the fingertip length. This includes shorts, skirts, dresses, and rips/tears in jeans.

SHOES:

Shoes must be worn at all times. Shoes must be closed-toed and hard-soled (slippers or house shoes may not be worn) and permit students to move quickly in the case of an emergency.

JACKETS/HOODIES:

Light jackets/hoodies may be worn in school on top of a shirt that meets the expectations of DSST: Cole Dress Code. Jackets must not restrict necessary movements of students or be able to conceal anything dangerous or inappropriate for a school setting.

OTHER

- Piercings must not restrict necessary activities/movements of students.
- Tattoos can be visible as long as they adhere to the community expectation of content.
- Hats and hoods are not allowed to be worn in school at any time.

SCHOOL FOLLOW UP

Students who do not meet the guidelines may be asked to do any of the following from DSST: Cole admin: meet with an administrator regarding dress code, contact family, and/or change into an outfit that meets DSST: Cole Dress Code.

DSST Cole Staff reserves the right to make a final determination on whether student dress meets DSST: Cole Dress Code.

Guidelines for Intentional Dress:

The Dress Code outlined above is incomplete without transparent and consistent education and conversations regarding expectations and assumptions of those with influence. We want to partner with families to teach students how to dress intentionally for each situation they encounter, so they can make fully informed choices on what to wear.

To this end, we will have certain days where we ask all students to dress for specific situations.

Therefore all students should have the following by the beginning of September:

- **At least one pair of dress shoes**
- **At least one dress shirt or top**
- **At least one pair of non-jean dress pants or a dressy non-denim skirt or dress**

If you are not able to obtain these items, please contact your student's Dean.

We recognize the list below is not an exhaustive list of situations one can intentionally dress for and will remain open to identifying other situations to add to these guidelines in the future.

DRESSING FOR INTERVIEWS & COLLEGE VISITS:

College representatives will often base their impression of applicants on how seriously the students prepare for the meeting. Dressing intentionally to meet the representatives can be a major factor in the impression they get of you for their school. Therefore, at a minimum when there is a possibility of meeting a college representative, students should meet the daily dress code and may consider wearing dress pants/skirt/dress, dress shirt, and/or dress shoes.

DRESSING FOR INTERNSHIPS:

A student's internship is intended to prepare them for the workforce. Therefore, students are expected to meet the expectations of their internship mentor every day. For some internships that may be a specific uniform (i.e. scrubs at a doctor's office) and for others that may be a dress code similar to our Daily Dress Code.

DRESSING FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS:

Students are always welcome to wear their Cole/Manual athletic sweats, etc. to school, but we want to specifically encourage students to wear their uniform/sweats to school on days when there is a game or competition. Any uniform that is worn should meet the DSST: Cole Dress Code.

DRESSING FOR PRESENTATIONS:

If a student has a presentation in class, morning meeting, internship, or otherwise, they are expected to dress in accordance with the expectations of the organizer of the presentation. For instance, if their presentation is in their Civics class, they are expected to meet the specific dress code given to them by their Civics teacher.

SPIRIT DAYS:

We often have Spirit Days to increase Cole School Spirit. On these days, students are welcome to dress to meet the theme (i.e. pajama day), while also meeting the DSST: Cole Dress Code.

Dress Code Follow Up

***If you are unsure as to whether a student is in dress code, please message the Culture Team

Student out of dress code upon entry:

1. Greeter, dress code check admin, and/or late student arrival duty will ask student to sit in the Front Office upon entry into Cole High School.
2. Dean or other administrator will complete any/all of the following:
 - Have a conversation with student about dress
 - Communicate with family
 - Ask student to change into alternate clothing that meets DSST: Cole Dress Code



Student out of dress code during the day:

1. Cole staff who identifies the student as out of DSST: Cole Dress Code should have a conversations with the student and contact parent.
2. Staff messages the Culture Team to inform them of the conversation and get student clothing that meets DSST: Cole Dress Code.



Student refusing to engage in conversation/change:

1. Staff member informs student that you're giving them space and grant them that space.
2. Staff member messages the Culture Team to inform them of the interaction and request restorative assistance.