

Krishna Patel and the SMOB Advisory Council in conjunction with the members of the Charles County Association of Student Councils, various PTSOs, and Administrative teams amended the following system-wide dress code to be approved by the Board of Education:

1. Shorts are permitted as long as the shorts reach the middle of the thigh, defined as shoulders relaxed and arms straight down alongside the body where **fists** touch the thigh.
2. Skirts are permitted as long as the skirt reaches the middle of the thigh, defined as shoulders relaxed and arms straight down alongside the body where **fists** touch the thigh. Slits in the skirt may not rise more than two inches above fingertips.
3. Sleeveless shirts are permitted as long as they cover chest area and undergarments are not exposed. Shirts cannot start more than 2 inches below neck.
4. Spaghetti straps are not permitted with the exception of formal wear.
5. **Backless shirts cannot be lower than mid-back and must not show undergarments.**
6. Undergarments must not be visible at any time.
7. Cleavage must not be visible at any time.
8. Pants must be secured no lower than mid-hip and must not cover the front of the shoes while walking.
9. **Ripped Jeans are permitted as long as holes do not exceed 3 inches in diameter above knee and fall below the shorts length criteria.**
10. **Leggings are permitted and are not subjective to body type.**
11. Backless and open-toed shoes with a hard sole are permitted as long as the shoes do not pose a safety hazard. Foam and similar soft-soled shoes, such as flip-flops or beach footwear, are prohibited.
12. Headwear is not permitted **if it causes an obstruction to see a person's face in cameras (meaning no bulkiness on top or comes over face).** (Exceptions may be granted based on religious and medical reasons with proper verification.)
13. Sunglasses are not permitted except during outdoor activities.
14. Sleepwear and sleepwear-type clothing are not permitted. (Exceptions are granted for certain activities, such as overnight field trips **and spirit days.**)
15. **Hair accessories, such as hair color, bobby pins, and clips are allowed as long as they do not pose a safety hazard to the individual or their peers.**
16. Jewelry that poses a safety hazard to the student or other students is not permitted.
17. Sports uniforms that are worn during the school day must conform to the dress code.
18. Clothing that displays or symbolizes any language or material that is inappropriate for school or offensive to any group is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, material relating to drugs, alcohol, profanity, obscenity, racism, gang activity and violence.
19. Recreational and non-instructional swimsuit attire must not be disruptive or distracting. Female swimsuits must be one piece and fully cover the chest and buttocks. Male

swimsuits must be mid-thigh. All swimsuits must remain nontransparent when wet. Swimsuits may not be worn uncovered outside of the pool area.

20. Formal attire must not be disruptive or distracting. Spaghetti straps and sleeveless or strapless formal dresses are acceptable as long as adequate coverage is maintained during activity. Slits in skirts or dresses may not rise more than a hand's width above the knee. Transparent attire is prohibited. Necklines may not fall below mid-sternum. Backless gowns may be permitted at the end-of-year prom, but are inappropriate for all other events including school dances, choral performances and in situations where a student or group of students officially represent the school system.
21. The dress code is in effect at all school-sponsored events on and off campus.

Note: Administrators have the flexibility to exercise their judgment, with the authority of the executive director of schools, to determine if a student's attire is considered to pose a safety hazard.



Student Member of the Board of Education
3/1/19

Dress Code Proposal

The dress code is arguably one of the most controversial aspects of the Charles County Code of Conduct due to societal changes in fashion and culture, as well as gender inequality. As society changes, we must accept, embrace, and incorporate new trends into our school system. This allows students to visually express themselves appropriately in a learning environment. Although, the dress code was not created to target solely one gender, many times in the school system, there is a bias specifically towards the female gender. To test this “claim”, myself as well as a friend of the opposite gender wore similar outfits, however as expected, only one of us got dress coded” me. This is just one instance out of the many that happen every day. As a united Charles County, we strive to be inclusive of all students, apart from their differences, and the same should apply to the dress code. Regardless of aspects, like body types, the dress code should be enforced upon all Charles County students. Therefore, I, Krisha Patel and the SMOB Advisory Council (CCASC delegates and various CCPS Students) propose the following adjustments to the current dress code (inclusive of ideas of different PTSO’s and Administration).

1) Shorts are permitted as long as the shorts reach mid of the thigh, defined as shoulders relaxed and arms straight down alongside the body where fingertips touch the thigh.

- Instead of fingertips touching the thigh, fist should touch the thigh as different people have different arm lengths
- In today’s society, shorter shorts are sold more prominently and the dress code should account for that change

3) Sleeveless shirts are permitted as long as two fingers’ width of fabric covers both shoulders, and the chest area and undergarments are not exposed

- Sleeveless shirts (including cold shoulder and off shoulder) should be permitted if it covers the chest area and doesn’t expose undergarments
- Cold shoulder and off shoulder tops are a part of today’s fashion

10) Headwear is not permitted- exceptions made for religious and medical purposes

- Headwear is not permitted if it causes an obstruction to see a person’s face on overhead cameras (no bulkiness in the front)
- Scarves, bandannas, and hoods are a vital part of the growing culture and as long as the person’s face is seen it should not be viewed as a problem

*) Ripped Jeans

- Holes above the jeans should be permitted as long as it’s no more than 3 inches in diameter

*) Backless shirts

- No lower than mid-back and cannot show undergarments

***) Leggings**

- Administrators are selective of WHO can wear leggings based on body types
- Equality for all body types

Commonly asked questions among CCPS students:

- Why do more females than males get dress coded if they are wearing similar items?
- What is the basis of seeing something as disruptive or distracting... where is the line drawn (admin have different viewing perspectives)?
- Is it appropriate for a male adult to dress code a female student (and vice versa) in regards to certain areas of the body (adult-student interaction)?

Suggestions/ points brought up by parents and admin

- There is a lot of open interpretation that creates conflicts
- There should be mandated community service for those who continuously break the dress code
- Some claimed schools to be a professional environment and recommended uniforms, however a vast majority said that as long as the clothes are provocative or “unsafe” they shouldn’t be seen as a problem.

Other areas of concern

- In some schools, “different” hair colors are not permitted
- In some schools, bobby pins are not permitted



Student Member of the Board of Education
12/4/18



Chief of Staff to the SMOB Advisory Council
12/4/18