

July 31, 2025

Greetings Roadrunner parents and guardians,

The Roadrunner staff and administration hope each of you had a restful summer and are prepared for another great academic year. As we approach the first day of school on August 4, 2025, new policies are in place to which schools must adhere to; specifically with our school dress code. We are asking parents to please read the items of clothing not acceptable as we want to work in partnership to prepare students to be college and career ready. We at Ridgeway High believe if students look and feel their best, they will perform better academically. In this correspondence, we have also enclosed the policy guidelines for your review. To close, we will always remain open for dialogue and working together as a school community.

CLOTHING ITEMS NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- 1. No crop tops or mid-drift shirts (young ladies)**
- 2. No spaghetti strap tops (young ladies)**
- 3. No spandex pants or shorts (young ladies)**
- 4. No bonnets (young ladies)**
- 5. No house shoes (young ladies and young men)**
- 6. No baseball caps inside the building (young men)**
- 7. No durags or other similar head garment (young men)**
- 8. No sagging pants (young men)**
- 9. No jeans with rips above the knee (young ladies and young men)**
- 10. No hoods on head inside the building (young ladies and young men)**
- 11. No shirt, hoodie, jacket, or jeans with inappropriate language, gang or drug paraphernalia (young ladies and young men)**

STUDENT DRESS CODE

I. PURPOSE

To outline the requirements for student dress for Shelby County Schools.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all schools and students in Shelby County Schools.

III. DEFINITIONS

Standardized Dress/Uniforms – Clothing of the same specified colors and styles.

IV. POLICY STATEMENT

The standards for Shelby County Schools dress reflect “common sense” and a concern for each child's comfort, safety, cleanliness, and sense of modesty. There is a strong relationship between neat, appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. Apparel or appearance which tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation must be avoided. To that end, Shelby County Schools establishes a basic dress code to ensure appropriate and modest dress.

School-based Dress Code

Schools wishing to change their method of dress by adopting or discontinuing standardized dress/uniforms may do so in accordance with the process outlined in the administrative rules and regulations accompanying this policy. To change its method of dress a school must request and receive approval from the Superintendent (or designee) in accordance with the process outlined in the administrative rules and regulations accompanying this policy. Any approved changes to a school's method of dress become effective for the following school year and shall remain in effect for a minimum of four (4) school years.

At its discretion, the District may at any time implement standardized dress/uniforms at a school based on safety concerns (e.g., gang activity) or other justifiable reasons.

Exemption from certain dress code requirements or standardized dress/uniforms may be requested by a parent for his/her child for medical or religious reasons.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

A. The Superintendent (or designee) is responsible for implementing this policy.

Legal References: Cross References:

1. TCA 49-6-4215
2. TCA 49-1-302 (j)
3. TCA Title 49-6-4009
1. [6030 Gangs and Non-School Related Social Clubs](#)

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether a student's attire and appearance are within the limits of decency, modesty, and safety. In matters of opinion, the

judgment of the Principal/designee shall prevail.

The Principal may allow exceptions for school-wide programs or special classroom activities.

The school administration will administer appropriate consequences for policy infractions.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE

- Pants must be worn at the waist, be appropriately sized, and of a safe length.
- Shirts, blouses, and dresses must have sleeves and must completely cover the abdomen, back, shoulders. Shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts with no midriff visible. Low-cut blouses, shirts, or tops or extremely tight tops, tube tops, or any top that exposes cleavage are prohibited. Shirts, blouses, and tops must be no longer than wrist-length.

- Head apparel (such as hoods, hats, etc.) must not be worn inside the school building, except for religious or medical reasons (see *Individual Exemptions from Certain Dress Code Requirements or from Standardized Dress/Uniforms*).

Page 3 of 11- Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor physical activity.

- Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, patches, jewelry, and notebooks may not display (1) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols; (2) gang affiliations; (3) vulgar, subversive, or sexually suggestive language or images; nor promote inappropriate and/or illegal products such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

- Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be no shorter than four (4) inches above the knee.

- Waist-length and appropriately sized sweaters, sweatshirts, and lightweight jackets can be worn inside school for warmth.

- Prohibited items include: (1) large, long and/or heavy chains; (2) studded or chained accessories; (3) sunglasses, except for health purposes; (4) sleepwear, pajamas, and/or blankets; (5) skin-tight outer materials such as spandex; (6) facial jewelry (including tongue piercing).

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency, modesty, and safety.

The Principal may allow exceptions in special circumstances, or for occasions such as holidays and special performances. The Principal may further prescribe dress in certain classes such as physical education, vocational education, and science labs.

Any student not attired in accordance with the policy shall be directed to correct the violation or spend the remainder of the day in in-school suspension (ISS). Repeat offenders shall be subject to additional measures which include parent conferences, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspensions as described in the District-wide discipline policy.