

Peaster ISD Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family have had a wonderful summer. As we enter a new school year, we wanted to provide you with an important update regarding the dress code at Peaster ISD.

Over the years, we have continuously aimed to foster an environment that promotes academic excellence, personal growth, and respect among all members of our school community. As part of our commitment to creating a positive and conducive learning environment, we regularly review and refine our policies to ensure they reflect the evolving needs of our students and align with the values we hold dear in the community of Peaster. There are only slight changes this year in an attempt to provide clarity to the existing dress code.

For the '23-'24 school year, PISD leadership is focusing on the intent behind having a dress code; the answer is that we are dedicated to teaching our students employability skills. These updates are intended to strike a balance between encouraging individuality and expression while maintaining an appropriate and respectful school environment. This goal is simple but can be difficult when put into practice because not everyone will agree with the same level of what is deemed appropriate. We understand that. However, as administration, we must define these as best we can and enforce the dress code daily at a level that holds students and staff to those standards. With your support, we can work together to keep the identity of our schools intact, one that has attracted many new families. We ask that these updates be adhered to and respected for why they are in place, even if you may not personally agree with them.

With that, here are some highlighted changes for the dress code for the '23-'24 school year. Again, we ask for your support with these changes, and please have patience as we work with your child when things are identified to be out of dress code. We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

PISD Administration

2023 - 2024 Dress and Grooming

Dress and Grooming (All Grade Levels)

The goal of the District dress code is to ensure a level of modesty, during school hours or events, that can be expected in a rural and conservative community, but not be a burden on families who make a concerted effort to comply with it. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the dress code.

Students are expected to come to school clean and neat, wearing clothing and exhibiting grooming that will not be a safety hazard to themselves or others. Clothing or grooming which, in the opinion of the administration, lacks modesty or disrupts or interferes with the learning environment will not be allowed.

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards.

Student Specifics:

- *No hats, caps, beanies, toboggans, hoods of garments, sunglasses, or headphones/earbuds (without teacher approval) are to be worn in the building.*
- *Clothing, ornaments, and accessories (including belt buckles, backpacks and purses) that are advertising tobacco, alcohol, drugs, gangs, or those with obscene, vulgar, lewd, or offensive printing, pictures, emblems, or writing that contains sexual innuendos, will not be permitted.*
- *Hair should be clean, groomed, and not prevent a clear view of the student's eyes. Hair must be of natural color. Extreme hairstyles or adornments are prohibited. No extreme spiked hair, Mohawks, or shaved designs are allowed. Headbands and ponytails are restricted to females. Male hair length must not be below the bottom of the collar. Facial hair must be neatly groomed.*
- *Body piercing is restricted to the female ear. Bandages, tape, or other coverings used for the express purpose of covering the body piercing jewelry and spacers will not be allowed. Gauging of the ears or any other part of the body is prohibited.*
- *Any clothing with improper fit (larger or smaller) shall not be allowed. No sagging clothing will be permitted.*
- *Spiked jewelry or clothing, chains (including wallet chains) or any other item which could be used or construed as a weapon is forbidden.*
- *Shoes must be worn at all times. House shoes, slides or slippers are prohibited.*
- *No trench coats or dusters.*
- *Halter tops, spaghetti straps, crop tops or muscle shirts will not be allowed. The width must be 3 fingers on the shoulders, no razorbacks.*
- *No undergarments or body parts (buttocks, chest or belly) should be seen. No revealing clothing is allowed. No lounge pants, pajamas, or blankets.*
- *For clarification: shorts and skirts must be fingertip length or mid thigh when arms are relaxed at the student's side. Cut-outs or holes in pants/shorts or slits in skirts must be no higher than the length of the student's fingertips or mid thigh when arms are relaxed at the student's sides. Tape and/or other materials other than a permanent patch will NOT be used as a means to correct this problem. Cut-off shorts will not be permitted; shorts must have a seam on the bottom.*

- *Form-fitting/skin tight pants, such as leggings, yoga pants, and tights, may be worn under a dress, skirt, shorts, or shirt, as long as the covering item, in both front and back, extends to at least fingertip length or mid thigh when arms are relaxed and at the student's side.*
- *Tattoos are not allowed to be visible.*

If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school.

Halloween will not be acknowledged by the wearing of costumes, make-up (including face and hair), or other related paraphernalia.

Events (including school spirit or curriculum related functions) requiring students to dress outside the normal school attire must be approved by the building principal prior to the event.

Students attending school-sponsored activities shall be expected to meet dress code requirements.

Clarifications of appropriate dress are available in the campus office upon request.