

**TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**GROOMING AND DRESS GRADES K-12**  
**2023-2024**

**I. GROOMING AND DRESS**

The Talladega County Board of Education believes that acceptable grooming and dress are essential elements in the teaching and learning process. Students are expected to dress in such a manner that will ensure health and safety and not distract from the learning environment. Dress and personal appearance are not to be disruptive or interfere with the educational interest and welfare of the students or purpose of public school education. Students will not wear any article of clothing or display any insignia or sign that shows disrespect for any person, creed, race, color, sex or nationality. Parents/Guardians are expected to monitor students' dress. Students in violation of the dress code will be reported to the principal's office and subject to disciplinary action.

- A. Clothing must be worn conventionally; e.g.-frontside front and backside back.
- B. Shirts:
  - a. Sleeveless shirts or blouses are not permitted.
  - b. Undergarments should not show through the outer shirt.
  - c. Halters, cropped tops, backless dresses, muscle/tank tops are not permitted.
- C. Pants/skirts/shorts:
  - a. Pants must fit properly.
  - b. Pants must cover the pelvic girdle (hip bones). Low-riding pants, sagging, or "slacking" will not be permitted. Form-fitting garments (leggings, jeggings, bicycle shorts, etc.) and any type of underwear are not permitted as outerwear. Leggings may be worn under a dress that meets length and other requirements for a dress. Leggings/Jeggings may NOT be worn as pants or with t-shirts.
  - c. Pants that are clinging, tight-fitting or excessively large are not permitted. "Hip-hugger" or "Low-rise" pants are not permitted.
  - d. Garments must be free of holes, rips, and tears above the knee in cases where skin is seen. Cut-off pants are not permitted.
  - e. Large, baggy pant pockets, with excessive material, are not permitted.
  - f. Shorts, skirts, jumpers, and dresses should not be worn more than approximately three inches above the top of the knee. Cut-offs, athletic (gym), "Umbro", "Soffes", other nylon type, spandex, bicycle, sweat type, tennis, or swimsuit type shorts are not permitted.
  - g. Pajama pants are not permitted.
- D. Shoes:
  - a. Closed-toe shoes must be worn.
  - b. Shoestrings must be tied and/or velcro fastened.
  - c. Students must wear appropriate shoes for physical education classes.
  - d. The following shoes are not permitted: cleated shoes, bubbleshoes, crocs, bedroom shoes, roller skate shoes, or shoes with sharp or protruding objects, e.g., spurs. Shoes must not present a safety risk to students.
- E. Coats:

Any color jacket or coat can be worn to school and placed in a locker or designated area. Only approved sweaters and jackets can be worn to class.

**F. The following are not permitted for students:**

- a. Students are prohibited from forms of dress, hairstyle (including unnatural hair color), visible tattoos or other adornments that draw attention to one's self in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process.
- b. Sunglasses, hats, headwear or head coverings in the school building (consideration will be given for extreme circumstances).
- c. Clinging or tight fitting garments.
- d. See through clothing or any clothing that allows undergarments to be made visible.
- e. Jewelry that would be a personal safety concern. Students may not wear body piercing jewelry or objects other than in the ear. **Small clear spacers may be used for a period of time at the principal's discretion.** Jewelry should be worn in moderation and should not draw attention to one's self in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process.
- f. Controversial, offensive or vulgar types of insignia, arm bands, decals, slogans having double or questionable meaning, etc. Controversial or vulgar type tattoos must be covered.
- g. Clothing which promotes products or activities prohibited by school policies (obscene language, unacceptable graphics, illegal substance advertisements to include alcohol and tobacco)
- h. Anything worn which could be considered as a weapon or as potentially harmful to other persons, such as chains.
- i. Clothing which has become synonymous with any secret society or anti-authority gang activity. (Refer to Criminal Acts Defined)
- j. Purse or tote larger than the average size of a notebook.
- k. Sweatpants of any type; fleece, joggers or otherwise, are not permitted.

**NOTE: If any aspect of the dress code becomes a consistent problem, appropriate adjustments will be made by the principal in collaboration with the Superintendent/Designee to address the situation. The principal or his/her designee will make the final judgment as to whether or not a student's appearance or clothing is appropriate for school. Attire for special days and after school activities must be pre-approved by the administration.**

**II. BOOK BAGS / BACK PACKS**

**Only clear or mesh** book bags and backpacks are permitted for grades K–12 unless provided by the school district. The use of rollers on book bags or backpacks is prohibited.