

# SMUHSD's New Dress Code



# Evolution of the New Dress Code Policy

- Student representatives expressed concerns to the Board of Trustees about the inequitable dress code across District schools.
  - Female students felt targeted for the way they dressed (often based on body type and/or maturity)
- Board directed staff to review and revise Student Dress Code based on student input
- District staff met UASB to review concerns and began to revise Student Dress Code



# Evolution of the New Dress Code Policy

- District staff collected examples of updated Student Dress Codes from other districts
- Based on student feedback and samples from other districts, staff revised Student Dress Board Policy
- Staff reviewed draft of New Student Dress Code with parents (PTO Council), administrators and students
- New Student Dress Code presented to Board and approved



# Basic Principles of the New Dress Code

- The student dress code should serve to support all students to develop a body-positive self-image.
- All students are encouraged to dress in a manner that is comfortable and conducive to an active school day and allows them to express their self-identified gender.
- Students should be able to wear clothing without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.



# Guidelines

- Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments. Shirts or tops must be worn at all times and must cover the back, front and sides of the torso.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not cover the face unless for religious purposes. Masks are not allowed unless for a medical purpose.



# Students Cannot Wear Clothing, Jewelry or Personal Items that depict

- Violent language or images
- Images or language depicting drugs, alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, e-cigarette or vaping, hate speech, profanity, pornography (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of the same
- Images or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class (defined as race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion).



# Policy Implementation Considerations

- This dress code should be followed on all school days (spirit days and other special events are included).
- Students should not be removed from a classroom for a dress code violation unless they are violating the 'Students Cannot Wear' sections of the dress code. Loss of class time should be avoided or kept to a minimum.



# Policy Implementation Requirements

- No student should be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement because of gender, race, body size, or body maturity.
- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. “Shaming” includes but is not limited to kneeling or bending over to check attire fit, measuring/commenting on straps, skirt length, or cleavage, asking students to account for their attire in the classroom, and directing students to correct a dress code violation during instructional time.

