

Dress for Success!

Dakota High School is committed to helping students develop the skills necessary to compete in a global society. Part of this preparation is creating a professional culture that reinforces a variety of career and college ready skills. While we recognize many of the current fashion trends are modest and respectful, the challenge we are embracing is teaching students to know the difference between social and professional attire. The building administration and staff want to partner with the Dakota community to adhere to a school dress code that is focused on meeting this challenge and establishing a culture that promotes career and college readiness. Therefore the following suggestions are guidelines to assist families in determining if your student is dress appropriately for school but are not intended to be an inclusive list of the Dakota dress code.

Student Dress should have a school appropriate message:

- Clothing, jewelry, and visible tattoos cannot advertise tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, which is consistent with our mission to provide a drug free and safe learning environment.
- All clothing and accessories should not have vulgar designs, messages, or be sexually suggestive.
- Clothing and accessories should not harass or defame any person or group of people. Additionally, no item should promote a hate group or suggest disloyalty to our Nation, State, and school.

Student Dress should promote a safe learning environment:

- Students should wear appropriate shoes to school and avoid wearing slippers
- Book bags should be limited to the draw string bag that carries a maximum of 3 books. Large back packs and purses pose a safety hazard for individual students and peers. Having large bags in classrooms is a trip hazard for staff and students. Additionally, large bags increase the crowding in the hallways and potential for conflicts to arise.
- Clothing, accessories, and fashion should not have sharp, pointed, or projectile type objects.

Student Dress should promote respect for self and others:

- Jeans with holes above the knee are not permitted at school.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be an appropriate length and extend beyond the finger tips of out stretched arms.
- Tank tops, muscle shirts, and sleeveless tops are not permitted at school.
- All shirts should cover the waist line and not expose a bare midriff. Additionally, tops should not have neck line or material that is revealing of undergarments.
- Pants and shorts should be worn in a manner that does not expose the students undergarments
- During school hours all hats, scarves, and headbands are not to be worn, which is consistent with other governmental buildings like courts, offices, and places of worship.
- During school hours coats and other outdoor gear should be placed in the student's locker.
- Leggings are not considered appropriate attire for school as pants. If leggings are worn to school they should have a top of appropriate length, which is measured by being finger tip length when arms are at a student's side.

The Dakota staff is committed to monitoring the dress code. As partners in this process, please have your student(s) do a self assessment prior to leaving for school to evaluate if they are dress for success. The building administration reserves the right to be the authority in determining if a student(s) is meeting this standard. If a student arrives to school and is not prepared to meet this standard the following should happen:

- Students will be offered an opportunity to change their clothing and/or remove their accessories. If available some school issued pants and tops will be offered, provided the student agrees to clean and return the items to school the following day.
- Students can contact their parents to have appropriate clothing delivered to school.
- Students who are in violation of the dress code multiple times are likely to receive additional consequences ranging from detention to suspension.

