

Dress Code Policy

Updated and approved, Oct 7, 2024

Values & Goals

At SELS, we strive to develop a strong and inclusive school culture. As part of this culture, we believe it is essential for students to dress with respect for themselves, the learning environment, and the educational institution. This means being clean and presentable each day.

Creating a "culture of excellence" requires students to make thoughtful choices about many aspects of their lives, including their attire. By encouraging appropriate dress choices, we hope to promote wise and respectful decision making among our students.

We view school as the student's "job," and just like any job, it is important to dress appropriately. Dressing for success sets a positive tone for learning and helps students take their role as learners seriously.

We ask that parents and guardians help instill in their children the value of education and the importance of dressing in a way that honors that value. Your support is crucial in reinforcing the respectfulness and significance of appropriate attire.

The goals for our dress code are the following;

- Do not establish unnecessary financial barriers to school attendance
- Prevent clothing-related injuries at school and on expedition
- Prevent students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language to foster an inclusive environment
- Allow students to wear religious attire, clothing of their choice that is comfortable, and expresses their self-identified gender without fear of discipline or discrimination
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, and religion.

Dress Code

Please refer to the following guide for appropriate dress:

- Clothing must cover mid-sections of the body; pants/shorts and tops must overlap.
- All undergarments must be covered
- Loose and baggy shorts, skirts above the knee, or other bottoms that might expose underwear or buttocks should be worn with shorts or legging underneath.
- Any displayed language/advertising should be positive and inclusive
- Hats, beanies, and sweatshirt hoods are worn outside only. Religious headwear is permitted.
- Clothing is comfortable fitting; overly baggy pants and tops are not safe for physical activity
- Footwear needs to be appropriate to the conditions; flip flops and open-toed sandals are not allowed due to the number of toe injuries we've had in previous years.

Enforcement

Enforcement should be consistent with the SELS overall discipline plan. Failure to comply with the student dress code should be enforced consistently with comparable behavior and conduct violations.

Easily correctable violations will be addressed in the moment by staff (students should not be asked to put on clothing that is not theirs to correct a violation).

Violations that are not easily correctable will result in an email to parents from school administrators. In an effort to avoid conflict, body shaming, and learning interruptions, students will not be included in this process. We expect parents to have the appropriate conversations with their children at home and support staff in enforcing these policies.

In the case of egregious violations (determined at staffs' discretion), the student may be asked to go to the office and parents will be contacted to help remediate the issue.

If students have repeat violations or continue to wear articles that have been flagged as inappropriate, parents will be asked to meet with school administrators and, if appropriate, may be escalated to the Board of Directors.