

Covington County Schools Dress Code for High School Students

Students may be denied admission to class for violating the dress code as described in the Code of Student Conduct for Covington County Schools and the Straughn High School Student Handbook. This would result in an unexcused absence for the classes missed. The information listed below highlights the main issues for high school students.

Action may be taken for the following:

1. Students wearing a head covering of any type in the school building during school hours. (This includes hoodies, caps, etc.)
2. Having suggestive, offensive, or vulgar writing and/or pictures on clothing (including references to tobacco or alcohol). Students will not be permitted to wear any clothing that promotes groups that do not reflect a positive image in today's society. Clothing that dishonors the flag or military uniforms, has racial implications or is gang related including trench coats/ bandanas is not permitted. The principal and assistant principal will have the discretion to determine negative images.
3. Exposing midriffs, stomachs, backs or shoulders. Inappropriate dress will include sleeveless shirts or dresses, sundresses, spandex, mini dresses or skirts, low ride pants, half-shirts, tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, or sleeping apparel.
4. Wearing clothing with cutouts, tears, holes, slits, open-sided tops, tops that are cut extremely low, or shirts that are longer than shorts under the shirt. *Pants with holes in them anywhere, including at or below the knee, are not permitted.*
5. Wearing see through clothing.
6. Wearing clothing that is tight fitting and/or revealing.
7. Wearing shorts, skorts, skirts, dresses that are shorter than three (3) inches above the top of the knee. If leggings/jeggings or similar pants are worn, a top, dress, or skirt must be worn over the pants at a length no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee.
8. Wearing jewelry or other accessories which are deemed inappropriate or pose a health hazard or distraction (including nose rings, body rings, tongue piercing, wallet chains, etc.)
9. Wearing anything deemed to be inappropriate or distracting to the learning process. The principal and assistant principal will have the discretion to determine inappropriate attire.

Covington County Schools Attendance Policy

Absences: The State of Alabama requires a written explanation to be on file for all student absences.

Written explanations should be submitted within 2 days of the student's return. High School students may be excused with a note from a parent or guardian for up to 9 absences per semester per course. Every absence following the 9th must be legally excused (physician or court appearance documentation) to receive credit for a course. Excessive absences may result in a student being assigned Saturday School.

Excused: An absence may be excused for the following reasons:

1. The student is too ill to attend school.
2. Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the student if attending school
3. Legal quarantine
4. Death in the immediate family
5. Emergency conditions as determined by the superintendent or principal.
6. For attendance at non-school related special events, the principal might excuse students (such absences must be based on written parental request and approved in advance)

All make-up work should be completed within five (5) days of returning to school.

Unexcused/Truancy (per school year): An absence not approved by Items #1-6 is considered unexcused. Students may not make up work if the absence is unexcused.

The following procedures shall be followed to address truancy:

1. Parent/Guardian will be sent written notification
2. Parent/Guardian will be required to attend a conference with administration
3. Continued excessive absences will require a parent/guardian and student to attend Early Warning Court
4. After attending Early Warning Court, if excessive absences continue, a complaint will be filed for Educational Neglect and/or Truancy, if appropriate.

Tardiness and Check-ins (per semester):

The procedure for entering school after the tardy bell at 7:45am is as follows:

- A student is tardy if he/ she is not in assigned seat when the tardy bell rings.
- Tardy students must report to the office for an admission slip to enter the classroom.
- Students must bring a written statement from a parent/guardian indicating the reason for the student's tardiness to receive an excuse. *Tardies are excused only for the same reasons as absences.*

Disciplinary Actions for Unexcused Tardies:

1. First, Second and Third Tardies: Class I Offense
2. Fourth Tardy: Class II Offense

Check-outs: A student may be allowed to check out with written consent, or personal contact made by the parent or guardian.

Additional attendance requirements for high school students: A student with 9 or more absences for a semester (questionable or unexcused) may not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities. Principals have the discretion to allow for extenuating circumstances.

**COVINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
DRESS CODE and ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Acknowledgment please detach and return

Student's Print Name _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____