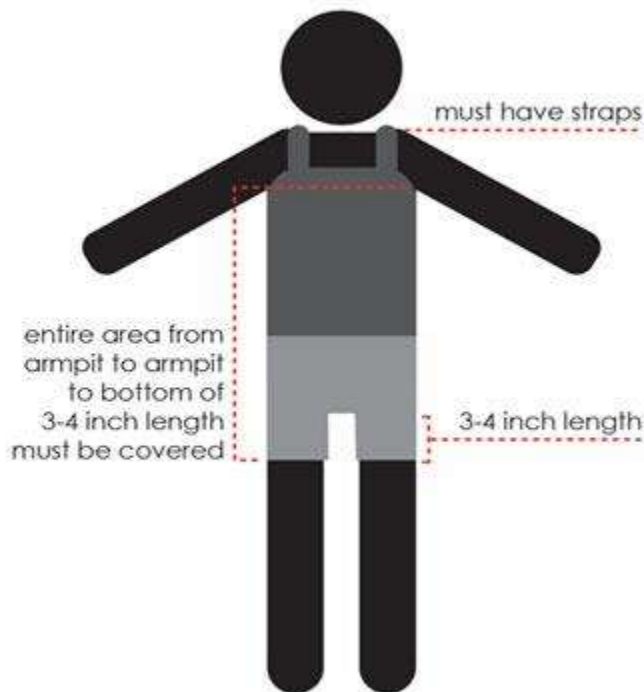




The SHS “How-To Guide to Dress Code”

Student Dress Code

Salem City Schools respects students’ rights to express themselves in the way they dress. All students who attend Salem City Schools are also expected to respect the school community by dressing appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Student attire should facilitate participation in learning as well as the health and safety of students and the adults that supervise them. This policy is intended to provide guidance for students, staff, and parents.



Minimum Requirements:

1. Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 to 4 inches in length on the upper thighs (see images below). Tops must have shoulder straps and cover torso (no crop tops). Rips or tears in clothing should be lower than the 3 to 4 inches in length.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (**pajamas, blankets, bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by the principal**).
3. See-through or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of the dress code.



4. Headgear including hats, hoodies, and caps are not allowed unless permitted for religious, medical, or other reason by school administration.
5. Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

Additional Requirements:

1. Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or lewd conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
2. Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
3. Clothing may not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene language or images.
4. Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
5. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
6. Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.

The administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will not be allowed to attend class. Parents will be called if appropriate clothing is not available or the student refuses dress-code appropriate clothing.



LegalCode of Virginia, as amended, section 22.1-79.2; Broussard v. Sch. Bd. of City of Norfolk, 802 F. Supp. 1526 (E.D. VA 1992);

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 89 S. Ct. (1969);
Adopted July 1, 1999

The Salem City School Board recognizes the right of students and their parents to exercise personal judgment in matters of dress, within certain boundaries. The Board also recognizes that neatly attired students take pride in themselves and are more likely to practice habits of self-discipline and to display a positive attitude and demeanor. At the school and division levels, appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment.

Each school principal shall draft and enforce a school dress code, in accordance with Standards of Student Conduct provisions and the guidelines contained within Board Regulation JFCAA-BR, prohibiting student dress or grooming practices which:

- Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- cause excessive wear and damage to school property;
- prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement; or
- display a message using vulgar or offensive language, regardless of the message.

Students and parents shall be informed about the school dress code at the beginning of the year and when revised. A student who violates the dress code shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Students shall not wear on school property any type of clothing, apparel, or accessory that indicates the student has membership in or is affiliated with any gang connected to criminal activities. The School Board may consult with local law enforcement authorities to obtain information concerning local gangs and any associated criminal activities.