

DRESS CODE DISCREPANCIES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies
Furman Engaged

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INTRODUCTION

Principal Robin Mill from Berea Middle School



BEREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
where hard work pays off

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DRESS CODE FROM GCSD

“The administration will make the final judgment on the appropriateness of clothing and/or appearance and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any articles of clothing or other items which lead to or may foreseeably result in the disruption of or interference with the school environment. In the event the administration determines a student’s dress is inappropriate for school in accordance with this policy, the administration will either require the student to change, request that the student be placed in ISS until a change of clothing is available or for the remainder of the school day. Students will also be informed not to wear the garment to school again. Repeated violations of the Dress Code will be treated as disruptive behavior and in violation of the District's Behavior Code. Defiance or refusal to change clothing and repeated offenses may result in out of school suspension.”

CULTURE IN THE WAYS WE DRESS

- Students of different race, gender and class dress differently based on the culture they're raised in. Sometimes, dress codes unfairly ban fashion trends that are traditional for student's cultures.
 - Sagging pants
 - Braids extensions in hair
 - Head accessories
 - Hats, head wraps, hijab, yamaka



SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECT

- Implementing a uniform dress code assists in eliminating a hierarchy within students based on clothing.
- Uniform dress codes makes students equal
- Allows for focus to be on school, not clothing
- Promotes learning, self esteem and attendance
- Eliminates bullying and missed class



SEXUALIZING BODIES

- Dress Code tends to put focus on boy's education as girls are targeted
- “Boys are distracted by female body, can't control themselves” is only reinforcing young boys to think it is acceptable to have a lack of self control
- Objectifies female body
 - shoulders, legs, collarbones, etc are distracting and sexual
- Bra straps are sexualized
- Restricting girls freedom to put boys first



SELF EXPRESSION

- The choice of dress is a type of non-verbal communication that holds weight equating to freedom of expression.
- Young girls, transgender and non-conforming students have clashed with dress-code policies contingent on how they express their identities.
- Teaches children during pivotal stages in their lives such as adolescence to not feel comfortable in their own skin.



liz
@lizzymartineez

I decided not to wear a bra today and got pulled out of class bc one of my teachers complained that it was a “distraction to boys in my class.” My school basically told me that boys’ education is far more important than mine and I should be ashamed of my body. @Manateeschools :)

1:27 PM - Apr 2, 2018

♡ 31.9K 💬 10.9K people are talking about this



POSITIVE OF DRESS CODE/UNIFORM

<p>Eliminating Extremes (hierarchy and status used through clothing such as brands, money spent, etc.)</p>	<p>Perception (prepares students for a more professional culture, gives the school a positive image, tries to minimize the binary)</p>
<p>Positive alternatives (uniform can be an alternative if focus is purely on education)</p>	<p>Academic Success (less students being bullied or pulled out of class because of dress code-positive of uniform and allow students to prepare for what lies beyond school e.g. job uniforms)</p>



Is there
anything
wrong
with this
picture?

NEGATIVES OF DRESS CODE/UNIFORM

<p>Often Discriminatory and Sexist</p>	<p>Perception [over-sexualizes young girls, punishes them for things they cant control while reinforcing boys negative attitudes]</p>
<p>Individuality is Suppressed Teaching Conformity. [Dress Codes don't allow for facilitative learning]</p>	<p>Takes Away From Valuable Learning Time</p>

SOLUTION?

Changing the wording of the dress code's intentions.

Try to explain to faculty and staff the importance of equal education and how strive to achieve that

Advocate for uniforms and help those who can't afford it.

“Last year, Berea Middle School implemented a unified dress code policy. A unified dress code can assist in teaching students to dress smartly and to take pride in their appearance, in preparation for learning and future careers. The use of unified dress code can also foster of solidarity among students, while also promoting an environment of equality and respect.”