

STALLIONS VS. DRESSCODE

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PHOTO BY KINSLEY THURSTON

The dress code policy is stricter than the codes at the other two schools and is extremely discriminatory toward females. Also, terrible inconsistencies in enforcement create hard feelings over the unfairness.

For the 2015-2016 school year there were 59 total dress code violations, according to Educator Handbook data. In 2016-2017 Aug. 16-Sept. 13, there were 34 total dress code violations recorded, the usual beginning of the year hot weather and test-the-adults spike.

A recurring violation is females wearing shorts more than four inches above the knee.

A current fashion trend for males is Chubbies, shorts that rarely meet the dress code standard. It is unlikely for a male to be dress coded for his Chubbies.

Another rule that angers the females is that leggings and yoga pants may not be worn unless the shirt over them reaches at least four inches above the knee.

Girls at South Pointe say there is confusion over the rule, although the code is accessible

online and in hard copy in the guidance office. This confusion stems from the fact that Rock Hill High and North-western allow students to wear leggings, running pants, and yoga pants as long as a top covers the rear end.

Reacting to the Bearcats' dress code in their

Student Handbook this year, Leonard said, "We were not made aware that they [Rock Hill High] were changing their dress code in regard to leggings; however, after seeing the changes, the SPHS administrative team decided not to make

changes in those areas." The reason always given for more conservative dress codes is that students must not reveal too much of their bodies.

Males at South Pointe have jokingly said that a girl's shoulders or short skirt or leggings had distracted them from learning, but most of them will also tell you that it's the girl more than the clothing that they find distracting.

"In South Pointe versus society, I think South Pointe is way more conservative because it's public education. We are here for an education, not a fashion show," says new assistant principal Meredith Johnson.

The dress code was put in place to keep the school environment clear of any distractions and to set students up for college and professional life, adults say. But our college visits show us only high schools try to dictate what students

should wear.

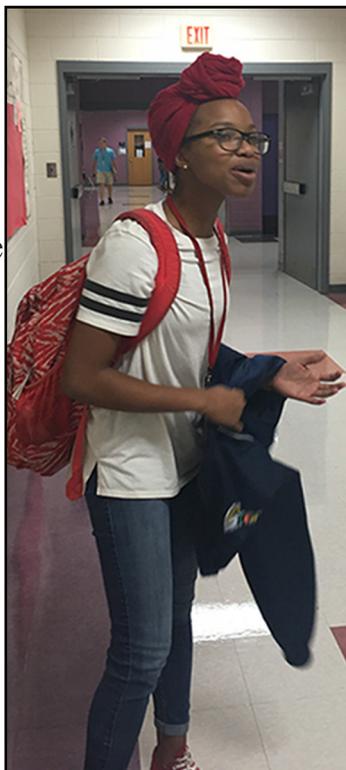
This year is the hottest on record and temperatures in October stay in the 80s, not to mention the 100-degree days for fall and spring sports when males are allowed to dress lightly as they exercise.

Girls, on the other, hand report being forced to keep on heavy practice shirts so as not to reveal sports bras.

Girls have much more trouble being comfortable at school or performing well in the heat, given an antiquated dress code policy.

Although the school has already looked at changing the dress code and has decided against it, we still think the code should be altered, at least to be consistent with the other two high schools.

If this district really wanted to move into the 21st century, the whole dress code should have an overhaul to align better with colleges, similar to the way technology and curriculum does. At the very least, someone ought to take a look at where real discrimination is involved.



Skylayshia Myles tries to make her case as she is being dress coded for head scarf outside fourth block in September.