

# Dress Code Dilemma

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The dress code is a hot topic of discussion, sparking controversial debates nationally; however, it's been around for decades, first established back in 1969 by the Supreme Court. Now, while it's not a new concept, there is no black and white decision to be made regarding the system, instead it has led to multiple opinions and alterations fit for circumstance.

Perry High School reverted from a flexible dress code to a more monitored version as of 2022. This previous "slack" was evident during the outbreak of COVID-19, as the students' health and safety was of a higher value in the educational system. It was also a period where more students weren't present in school, so the dress code wasn't in such limitations.

However, currently the restrictions have been at an all time high. Females primarily have been subject to being "dressed inappropriately," for even the smallest issues. Meanwhile, male counterparts are seen in tank tops, shirtless (at practices), etc., with no consequences following.

A female sophomore from Perry High School was dress coded earlier this month due to a cropped shirt that sat right along her jeans. She states that the situation was "pretty upsetting" and that she "hates it [dress code] with every ounce of my being."

In addition, despite the handbook using gender-neutral terminology to classify articles of clothing, there is a common occurrence of females being targeted over male students. Furthermore, it's stated clearly in the handbook that "Tank tops should cover

undergarments with shoulder straps being approximately two fingers in width.” The issue with this text is that the “should” is subjective, there is no rule completely prohibiting straps less than two fingers width. It’s also subjective due to there being no precise measurement: how wide is a finger’s width?

Such situations stir quite the uproar, as another female sophomore student claims that individuals being dress coded for the simplest things such as tank top straps is “almost degrading and disgusting.”

However, the rebellion is not due to the dress code’s existence, but due to the regulation of said code. Overall, many students agree with the implementation, and the student who initially expressed her concern continues by clarifying her acknowledgement of the code and need for it, but to a “certain level.” She feels that in a learning environment there needs to be restriction. Students are still children and need guidance rather than criticism, “students shouldn’t feel hurt and belittled for minor violations, but should be able to express themselves and for the school to take that away feels suppressive and cruel.”