MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Statement of......

Policy and Responsibility

SUBJECT: MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

I. Purpose

Student dress should promote and maintain a healthy and focused educational environment where students are safe and happy. The dress code should not interfere with the learning environment.

*The primary responsibility for a student’s attire resides with the student and parent(s) or guardian(s).* The school district and individual schools are responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, and that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student at school and while participating in school-sponsored activities. The school district and individual schools are also responsible to ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, household income, and personal style.

School administrators are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of student conduct, dress, and appearance standards contained in this policy. *The legal concept of “reasonableness” shall be the guiding principle in the application and discipline of student conduct, dress, and appearance.* Adherence to the conduct, dress, and appearance standards will be the responsibility of the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). School administrators will have final judgment on all matters concerning the interpretation of student conduct, dress, and appearance.

Our values are:
- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff are responsible for managing their own personal distractions without regulating other individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance and learning opportunities, enabling teachers to focus on teaching.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline should be minimized whenever possible.
II. **Definitions**
Chest - The front surface of a human body enclosed by ribs and sternum.

Torso - The human body apart from the head, neck, arms, and legs.

Legal Concept of Reasonableness - Rational, appropriate, ordinary, or usual in the circumstances.

Safety Risk - The risk of harm to self or others.

Disruption to the Learning Environment - Reactions by other individuals to the clothing or adornment, which causes the teacher/administrator to lose the attention of students, to modify or cease instructional activities, or deal with student confrontations or complaints.

Head Coverings - Hats, beanies, religious headwear, durags, scarfs, bandanas, and hoodies as long as the face is visible, it does not interfere with a line of sight to the student or staff, is not a disruption to the learning environment and does not pose a safety risk.

Gang Symbols - Any article of clothing, badge, sign, lettering hairdo, jewelry, emblem, symbol, or other personal display or adornment, which is intended by the students, or is recognized or acknowledged by students or law enforcement to designate a gang symbol or to signify affiliation with, participation in, or approval of a gang.

Apparel and accessories advocating illegal or inappropriate behavior or language – Examples to consider include clothing or jewelry that displays obscene, profane, vulgar or pornographic words or images; that advertises or promotes racism, violence, hate groups, or the illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, or contains language, images, or symbols of a sexual/sexist nature.

Undergarments - Anything traditionally worn under the clothing (i.e. boxers, sports bras, bralettes, swimsuits, etc.)

III. **Dress and Appearance Standards**
*Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students*
Clothes must be worn in a way so that the chest, buttocks, and genitals are covered with a fabric that is not see-through. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

A. Students Must Wear:
- Tops should cover undergarments with a front, back, and sides. It must be connected by a strap or sleeve over the shoulder and cover the majority of the torso.
- Bottoms should cover undergarments, buttocks, and genitals while standing and sitting.
- Shoes appropriate for the day's activities.

B. Students May Wear:
- Head coverings.
- Jewelry and/or accessories that are not a disruption to the learning environment and that does not pose a safety risk.
C. Students **May Not** Wear:
   - Undergarments as outerwear
   - Apparel and accessories advocating illegal or inappropriate behavior or language.
   - Sunglasses
   - Gang symbols

IV. **Dress Code Enforcement**
   - School administrators are responsible for ensuring that the school dress code is consistent, fair, and implemented without ridicule, humiliation, or embarrassment of a student.
   - School dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of education time.
   - School-directed changes to a student's attire should be least restrictive and non-disruptive to the student's education time.
   - Failure to comply should be consistent with a school's overall discipline plan
   - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may be contacted.

V. **Training for Administrators, Teachers, and Students**
Murray City School District's dress code is most effective when school administrators and teachers are taught to understand and embrace the intent of the code, how to apply and enforce the code equitably, and how to talk about the dress code and the reasoning behind it.

   Administrators and educators will be trained regularly and able to use positive language to explain the code and address code violations.

   Administrators are responsible to educate students annually.

VI. **Communication to Parents**
The dress code will be available to the parents annually through the registration process and on the district website.