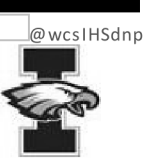


**From:** Danielle Patton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 8/26/2021 7:55:04 AM  
**To:** Hayden Riddle; Danielle Patton; Andrea Holder; angela durham; Brad Fiscus; Candace Emerson; Dana Ausbrooks; Daniel Cash; Donald Weiss; Eliot Mitchell; Eric Welch; Gary Anderson; Jason Golden; Jay Galbreath; Jennifer Aprea; KC Haugh; Melanie Robe; Nancy Garrett; Naomi Williams; Rick Wimberly; Sheila Cleveland; Steven Pickerill; Vickie Hall;  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Hayden [REDACTED] 10th grade  
**Attachments:** Outlook-oibwp2lp.png

Good morning, Hayden! Thank you for your email. I appreciate it anytime our students respectfully voice their concerns. You have a lot of information for us to discuss and I see you are in 1st period study hall, so I will call you in so we can discuss this further in person. There are 2 points that I want to clarify for all listed on this email, which are your comments regarding our faculty only dress coding female students and the discipline administered for any dress code violations. Firstly, we have *corrected* both male and female students who are not in compliance with the WCS Board Policy. We have done so by providing the male/female students with pants, shorts, Indy t-shirts, etc. or they have contacted a parent to bring them clothing. Secondly, we are only on week 3 of school, but the administration has not administered ISS or any detentions for students out of dress code. Our goal is to correct the issue and send the student to class without losing valuable instruction.

I do agree that the line must be drawn somewhere, and I look forward to our discussion.

Thanks!  
  
Niki Patton, Ed.D.  
Principal  
Independence High



---

**From:** Hayden Riddle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 6:47 AM  
**To:** Danielle Patton <[REDACTED]>; Andrea Holder <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Dana Ausbrooks <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Donald Weiss <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Melanie Robe <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Naomi Williams <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Steven Pickerill <[REDACTED]>; Vickie Hall <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Hayden [REDACTED]

To  
Whom It May Concern,

I  
would like to have my statement said and for you to hear what I am delivering to you. As we all know there are problems with dress codes in the modern 21st century. As this may sound common to hear I can assure you it is a real problem that we students are

trying to find a solution to. We (students) feel that it is very unfair to more than half of the student population and we are willing to agree on a solution that benefits both of us. As females, we feel we cannot fully express our style because of the limitations that have been put on us. It's not so much expressing our style as it is feeling we cannot wear what we want because of the fear of being a "distraction". Our education is OUR education. It is not determined by someone else, so why let people come in and be our distraction when we are simply learning. It should not matter what we are wearing while getting OUR education. As the young women feel, we are not going to stop anyone from learning and that is not our intention. WE do not wear clothes for anyone else's distraction. We, as young women, are very intelligent and we actually have a brain and we use it to decide what we will wear to SCHOOL. We are never blindsided by what we are wearing, and this is because there is such a stigma for how young women should dress and we want to break that. It starts in schools. I think every adult knows that there is a problem but they are not going to change as the days of modernization change. There was a Supreme Court ruling in 1969 known as the Tinker v. Des Moines case. Even though this was not strictly about wearing certain clothes, it was about the freedom to wear and express themselves through clothing. If students are allowed to wear things that involve POLITICS, which causes more distraction between students (as I would know because I am actually in the classroom) then why are we not allowed to wear shorts, some skirts, and tops I have talked to numerous teachers and they believe the dress code is outdated and useless. We should be modernizing the dress code and we come into more modern times. Saying we have to wear shorts that go down to our mid-thigh is absolutely ridiculous. As I am 5'10 and an athlete, I am taller and I have strong legs. I cannot find shorts that will be in the dress code. They would either be too short for your liking or they would be too tight. I would like a reason as to why young women are made to feel self-conscious because of the dress codes. As schools, you preach that you want every kid to feel accepted and valued. Well, I know you are doing an unacceptable job of that. Every day, you make young women feel as they should hide their bodies because it is all about the boys and what will be a distraction to them. From experience, young women come to school to LEARN, not get in trouble for their choice of style that will be a distraction to BOYS. The last time I checked we are in the 21st century and women are becoming more dominant and known. But it is still not equal and like I have stated before it is because it starts in schools. From a young age, we are taught that we have to do things to accommodate boys' needs. Even though that is not directly what we are told it is 100% implied. Why take us, young women, out of class when the boys are being rude. Maybe we should teach the boys to be RESPECTFUL young men rather than sexualizing women. IF you as a school are going to allow boys to wear shorts that are above midthigh and show their underwear and not dress code them then that is an actual problem. WE would be having a 100% different conversation if you were to dress code them, but apparently, it is okay for boys to wear that stuff. You may not notice because they are boys, but unfortunately, the young intelligent women notice because we feel discriminated against because of our GENDER and that is NOT okay. If you aren't going to change anything based on this email, you should put more thought into the boys' dress code because we all are aware that the recent dress code targets females and the LGBTQ+ community. A study shows that females and the LGBTQ+ communities are 60% more likely to be dress coded and that is NOT okay. That statistic should be made equal between people of all genders. If the PUBLIC school system cares so much about what we wear then why do we not have uniforms that please everyone, but more importantly school educators because it matters most to you. To add, I find it greatly unfair that our punishment is to either get detention or spend our day in iss. I would like reasons as to what way that helps our education and isn't a distraction. Many educators will say that we created this distraction ourselves, but I believe it was indeed the schools who created it in the first place. A young woman is already embarrassed that she has been dress coded and she knows all her peers will talk about it. Why do we make this into such a big ordeal, when it shouldn't even be one. I'm not saying there shouldn't be a dress code, but maybe a more modernized one. A statistic shows that out of 17,000 people served ages 18-64 12% of the people found another co-worker's clothing choice to be distracting enough to report it to HR. That is 2040 people out of the 17,000 people surveyed. I find this to greatly be the minority and I know if we took a poll at school and asked how many people were distracted by other people's clothes, it would not even be close to that. Based on an article from 2017, when Williamson County last changed the dress code policy, previously last being changed was 2002 it stated, " I still think they're largely targeting girls," said parent Kay Overlund, who has children in pre-K and grades 2,8, and 9." This proves that even 4 years ago even the parents felt the feeling we STILL feel today. Another parent stated, "She said she remembers when her daughter was called out for a dress code violation for wearing loose shorts that hit about mid-thigh and a sleeveless shirt that covered the shoulders."She was really stressed out," Sarubbi said of her daughter. "She said, "I don't want to get dress-coded again.``"I buy my kids' clothes," Sarubbi said. "I'm never gonna buy my kids something that I don't feel is appropriate.", as you read, just look at the examples of students every day feeling like they can't be comfortable. Especially with our stress, what we wear should be one of the last of our worries. I was reviewing the Williamson County school dress code policies and it reads, " Student uniforms related to student extra-curricular

activities (band, cheer, dance, sports team, etc.) must comply with this policy during the academic day.", may we point out it states CHEER and DANCE specifically, which is more common of a girls sports in schools. Why did they not list basketball or football?

Why did the young women's sports have to get pointed out? If you look at what BOYS wear on spirit days or game days it is very out of dress code most of the time, but we decide to point out the females??? If females are allowed to wear skirts that are most of the time shorter than shorts, why can't we wear shorts? Most tennis skirts have spandex underneath which is covering, shorts also have undergarments built-in. I know that is a very reasonable argument. To add another fact, why are not able to wear certain things when other schools in the districts can. From my understanding, we are a DISTRICT, not separate

schools. If other schools are allowed to wear shorts, then why aren't we? That is a very valid question because many students feel that it is unfair. To add, Jason Golden became superintendent in 2019, and the last time the dress code was edited with everyone knowing because it was more modernized to 2021 was 2017, so you think they would have revised the dress code drastically when Golden became superintendent, but it was not done. This is probably because we are okay with ignoring the fact that young women feel injustice towards this situation. And yes, I realize that the document staging the dress code says the issued date was 11/18/19, but the day the actual dress code was issued was 2/20/17 which is 2 years before Golden. And the last time before that was 2002. When Golden was voted for he stated, "keep the foot on the gas" toward success in Williamson County Schools", and that has not been happening. Success is just not education, it is making students into better people for the world in the future. It is also showing them the difference between right and wrong and how to treat others. Someone else stated that they believed he would be the best choice for staff, parents, AND students. I feel Golden has done a wonderful job with everything, but the dress code. And this isn't just an issue in Williamson County, it is across the country. That's why a change matters, for EVERYONE! I have talked to students from other schools and they have stated that it is unfair to us because they say on hot days that wearing shorts makes it 10x better. Because I know that I am not the only student that feels injustice, I have also taken the time to reach out to other students to get their opinions. We have also come up with some solutions to the problems that we are still facing at Independence High School in 2021.

- 

Allow 4-inch inseam shorts that will be comfortable on everyone, 2.5-inch inseam will not be allowed(I will add that these shorts are not revealing, and all the shoes have a lined undergarment in them which makes them less revealing.) Also, we believe this is a fair compromise between wanting to wear shorts and the staff wanting to make sure they are appropriate.

- 

Allow the holes in our jeans to come to fingertip length. Today, if you go shopping for jeans it is very hard to find jeans that have rips below the mid-thigh and not above. It is just not in style and we buy what is IN style.

- 

Allow a one-finger width between the top of the pants and the bottom of the shirt.

- 

When wearing shorts/skirts you have to be able to see the bottoms and

shirts, jackets, etc can't be covered.

- Regulate what the boys wear such as shorts that aren't at the required length, being able to see their underwear, etc.

Below

I have provided statements made by other students about the dress code. Some have chosen to remain anonymous.

Having

a dress code at a public school is telling both males and females to cover up the bodies they have been born with. There is obviously some line that should not be crossed when it comes to dress code, but things such as "4 finger length tank tops" so our shoulders aren't exposed too much is not very reasonable. I understand we are in a learning environment, but every day we see people out of dress code, in stores, at home, walking around, at restaurants. But who are we to tell others how to dress? as long as you feel confident and dress as modest and respectful as you can then there should be no problem. I agree with not showing cleavage as that is something that would be considered inappropriate, but holes in jeans and tank tops that are at least 2 fingers should be fine and allowed. we are in the middle of summer right now and it gets hot having to wear jeans all day... shorts should be allowed. Our principals need to realize that there aren't many clothing stores anymore that sell completely full-length shirts... and appropriate clothing. Although I myself dress appropriately, it makes me sad to hear that girls feel like they are being singled out for what they wear because it's "distracting" to guys.

-12th-grade

female

|

attend a Williamson County school as a male student. I've overheard girls express their dissatisfaction with the dress code and how unfair it is. Even though I've never been dress-coded, I can imagine how aggravating it would be if it happened to me and to something that I liked and wore. If boys can wear shorts then girls should be able to wear shorts that don't have length restrictions, such as mine. I hope that girls gain the independence to dress the way they want to.

-11th-grade

male

|

consider myself an activist when it comes to issues that I believe are unjust, such as the LGBTQIA+ community or the lack of access to safe drinking water in third-world nations. Dress code and the prevalent misconstruction of women and their bodies are another part of the list that I hold dear to my heart. With the current self-love movement, schools that continue to regulate dress code do not reflect evolving cultural attitudes. I do not think that dress code rules provide a safe, happy learning environment in school for female students but rather do the exact opposite. It shames women, and if you dress code you are robbed of instructional time (why you go to school). But more importantly, I feel like it disproportionately targets female students, students of color, and LGBTQIA+ students in our school district.

-12th-grade

female

|

think that with the changing of the 21st century and the evolution of women's rights in society I think that the dress code in schools takes away from the impact of this movement in schools. At school, we are told to be creative, unique and a place to avoid common societal oppression against women. I think Williamson Counties' dress code and the unfairness against female students in this need to be addressed, changed, and made modern. I feel like the dress code is targeted towards females and their bodies. Something that we can not control what we look like or what our interests are or if we chose to display them through clothing (sports teams, bands, movies etc.) only in an appropriate manner not to distract male students. As

Williamson County, you continuously pride ourselves on preparing high school students for college. In college, there is no dress code because dress code does not limit your peers' education as seen through college lectures. Everyone learns the same regardless of what a female wears. Finally, if you decide not to change the dress code I ask that you please hold male students accountable and dress code them when females see their underwear under their shorts, or their shorts not being mid-thigh and their shoulders showing. Yet we can continue to get an education.  
-12th-grade female

I believe that it is definitely unfair towards girls because they can't dress and be themselves at school all the time. They can't do it because a few boys aren't able to control themselves, which should be a problem for them to figure out. I feel like it still is unfair towards girls and I think that they should have just as many rights with dress code as males do. Girls should be able to wear what they want, as long as it isn't excessively crazy, and be themselves  
-12th-grade male

The dress code has its place at times, but I believe it goes too far. First off, I believe it over-sexualizes women in ways that don't even occur, to begin with; the most evident case of that being the tank top strap rule. Secondly, the length rules for shorts are a little overboard. While yes, the shorts should not expose anyone's bottom, we shouldn't go as far as to say it needs to go below mid-thigh. It is a completely normal part of the body, and if boys were to expose that part I'm sure the school would have no problem with that.  
-10th-grade female

The dress code I think is sexist. If school is a place for learning, then why should my article of clothing be a problem? If someone is distracted by my bra strap or upper thigh, that is their problem. Not mine. School should be a place where everyone feels comfortable, and if a teacher feels distracted by it, they're the problem and should never look at a student that way.  
-10th-grade female

Yes, it's very annoying that we can't wear stuff that other wilco schools can??? shorts and shirts that show a little bit of stomach?  
-11th-grade female

Based on all the information provided, I know that there is really one choice left to make but now it is in your hands as administrative staff. I will continue to do everything in my power to make a life for everyone more equal. I want you to take a minute and think about how you would feel if you were in our shoes. Yes, it is easy to say "I thought about it", but it's very hard to actually take a minute to think. All the facts and information from multiple sources are very valid. I will make a difference whether it's now or after I graduate. I'm not doing this for myself and what I want, but it's being done because it is an actual problem that most staff put to the side as "desired by everyone for the benefit of few". NO, we will not let that stand anymore because it makes us more and more frustrated every day. If we talk about wanting to empower women and make them feel like they have a place, well we are not doing a good job of it. Once again it is for the boys.

I will add that I am not the only one trying to make a change. There are numerous teens throughout Williamson County trying to make the change also. There are petitions going around with hundreds of signatures

ready for the change!!!!

I  
look forward to hearing each one of your responses and the changes and or the impacts going to be made.

Hayden



**From:** Hayden Riddle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 8/26/2021 6:47:22 AM  
**To:** Danielle Patton; Andrea Holder; angela durham; Brad Fiscus; Candace Emerson; Dana Ausbrooks; Daniel Cash; Donald Weiss; Eliot Mitchell; Eric Welch; Gary Anderson; Jason Golden; Jay Galbreath; Jennifer Aprea; KC Haugh; Melanie Robe; Nancy Garrett; Naomi Williams; Rick Wimberly; Sheila Cleveland; Steven Pickerill; Vickie Hall;  
**Subject:** Hayden Riddle, 10th grade

---

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to have my statement said and for you to hear what I am delivering to you. As we all know there are problems with dress codes in the modern 21st century. As this may sound common to hear I can assure you it is a real problem that we students are trying to find a solution to. We (students) feel that it is very unfair to more than half of the student population and we are willing to agree on a solution that benefits both of us. As females, we feel we cannot fully express our style because of the limitations that have been put on us. It's not so much expressing our style as it is feeling we cannot wear what we want because of the fear of being a "distraction". Our education is OUR education. It is not determined by someone else, so why let people come in and be our distraction when we are simply learning. It should not matter what we are wearing while getting OUR education. As the young women feel, we are not going to stop anyone from learning and that is not our intention. WE do not wear clothes for anyone else's distraction. We, as young women, are very intelligent and we actually have a brain and we use it to decide what we will wear to SCHOOL. We are never blindsided by what we are wearing, and this is because there is such a stigma for how young women should dress and we want to break that. It starts in schools. I think every adult knows that there is a problem but they are not going to change as the days of modernization change. There was a Supreme Court ruling in 1969 known as the Tinker v. Des Moines case. Even though this was not strictly about wearing certain clothes, it was about the freedom to wear and express themselves through clothing. If students are allowed to wear things that involve POLITICS, which causes more distraction between students (as I would know because I am actually in the classroom) then why are we not allowed to wear shorts, some skirts, and tops I have talked to numerous teachers and they believe the dress code is outdated and useless. We should be modernizing the dress code and we come into more modern times. Saying we have to wear shorts that go down to our mid-thigh is absolutely ridiculous. As I am 5'10 and an athlete, I am taller and I have strong legs. I cannot find shorts that will be in the dress code. They would either be too short for your liking or they would be too tight. I would like a reason as to why young women are made to feel self-conscious because of the dress codes. As schools, you preach that you want every kid to feel accepted and valued. Well, I know you are doing an unacceptable job of that. Every day, you make young women feel as they should hide their bodies because it is all about the boys and what will be a distraction to them. From experience, young women come to school to LEARN, not get in trouble for their choice of style that will be a distraction to BOYS. The last time I checked we are in the 21st century and women are becoming more dominant and known. But it is still not equal and like I have stated before it is because it starts in schools. From a young age, we are taught that we have to do things to accommodate boys' needs. Even though that is not directly what we are told it is 100% implied. Why take us, young women, out of class when the boys are being rude. Maybe we should teach the boys to be RESPECTFUL young men rather than sexualizing women. IF you as a school are going to allow boys to wear shorts that are above midthigh and show their underwear and not dress code them then that is an actual problem. WE would be having a 100% different conversation if you were to dress code them, but apparently, it is okay for boys to wear that stuff. You may not notice because they are boys, but unfortunately, the young intelligent women notice because we feel discriminated against because of our GENDER and that is NOT okay. If you aren't going to change anything based on this email, you should put more thought into the boys' dress code because we all are aware that the recent dress code targets females and the LGBTQ+ community. A study shows that females and the LGBTQ+ communities are 60% more likely to be dress coded and that is NOT okay. That statistic should be made equal between people of all genders. If the PUBLIC school system cares so much about what we wear then why do we not have uniforms that please everyone, but more importantly school educators because it matters most to you. To add, I find it greatly unfair that our punishment is to either get detention or spend our day in iss. I would like reasons as to what way that helps our education and isn't a distraction. Many educators will say that we created this distraction ourselves, but I believe it was indeed the schools who created it in the first place. A young woman is already embarrassed that she has been dress coded and she knows all her peers will talk about it. Why do we make this into such a big ordeal, when it shouldn't even be one. I'm not saying there shouldn't be a dress code, but maybe a more modernized one. A statistic shows that out of 17,000 people served ages 18-64 12% of the people found another co-worker's clothing choice to be distracting enough to report it to HR. That is 2040 people out of the 17,000 people surveyed. I find this to greatly be the minority and I know if we took a poll at school and asked how many people were distracted by other people's clothes, it would not even be close to that. Based on an article from 2017, when Williamson County last changed the dress code policy, previously last being changed was 2002 it stated, " I still think they're largely targeting girls," said parent Kay Overlund, who has children in pre-K and grades 2,8, and 9." This proves that even 4 years ago even the parents felt the feeling we STILL feel today. Another parent stated, "She said she remembers when her daughter was called out for a dress code violation for wearing loose shorts that hit about mid-thigh and a sleeveless shirt that covered the shoulders."She was really stressed out," Sarubbi said of her daughter. "She said, "I don't want to get dress-coded again. ``"I buy my kids' clothes," Sarubbi said. "I'm never gonna buy my kids something that I don't feel is appropriate.", as you read, just look at the examples of students every day feeling like they can't be comfortable. Especially with our stress, what we wear should be one of the last of our worries. I was reviewing the Williamson County school dress code policies and it reads, " Student uniforms related to student extra-curricular activities (band, cheer, dance, sports team, etc.) must comply with this policy during the academic day.", may we point out it states CHEER and DANCE specifically, which is more common of a girls sports in schools. Why did they not list basketball or football? Why did the young women's sports have to get pointed out? If you look at what BOYS wear on spirit days or game days it is very out of dress code most of the time, but we decide to point out the females??? If females are allowed to wear skirts that are most of the time shorter than shorts, why can't we wear shorts? Most tennis

skirts have spandex underneath which is covering, shorts also have undergarments built-in. I know that is a very reasonable argument. To add another fact, why are not able to wear certain things when other schools in the districts can. From my understanding, we are a DISTRICT, not separate schools. If other schools are allowed to wear shorts, then why aren't we? That is a very valid question because many students feel that it is unfair. To add, Jason Golden became superintendent in 2019, and the last time the dress code was edited with everyone knowing because it was more modernized to 2021 was 2017, so you think they would have revised the dress code drastically when Golden became superintendent, but it was not done. This is probably because we are okay with ignoring the fact that young women feel injustice towards this situation. And yes, I realize that the document stating the dress code says the issued date was 11/18/19, but the day the actual dress code was issued was 2/20/17 which is 2 years before Golden. And the last time before that was 2002. When Golden was voted for he stated, "keep the foot on the gas" toward success in Williamson County Schools", and that has not been happening. Success is just not education, it is making students into better people for the world in the future. It is also showing them the difference between right and wrong and how to treat others. Someone else stated that they believed he would be the best choice for staff, parents, AND students. I feel Golden has done a wonderful job with everything, but the dress code. And this isn't just an issue in Williamson County, it is across the country. That's why a change matters, for EVERYONE! I have talked to students from other schools and they have stated that it is unfair to us because they say on hot days that wearing shorts makes it 10x better. Because I know that I am not the only student that feels injustice, I have also taken the time to reach out to other students to get their opinions. We have also come up with some solutions to the problems that we are still facing at Independence High School in 2021.

- Allow 4-inch inseam shorts that will be comfortable on everyone, 2.5-inch inseam will not be allowed(I will add that these shorts are not revealing, and all the shoes have a lined undergarment in them which makes them less revealing.) Also, we believe this is a fair compromise between wanting to wear shorts and the staff wanting to make sure they are appropriate.
- Allow the holes in our jeans to come to fingertip length. Today, if you go shopping for jeans it is very hard to find jeans that have rips below the mid-thigh and not above. It is just not in style and we buy what is IN style.
- Allow a one-finger width between the top of the pants and the bottom of the shirt.
- When wearing shorts/skirts you have to be able to see the bottoms and shirts, jackets, etc can't be covered.
- Regulate what the boys wear such as shorts that aren't at the required length, being able to see their underwear, etc.

Below I have provided statements made by other students about the dress code. Some have chosen to remain anonymous.

Having a dress code at a public school is telling both males and females to cover up the bodies they have been born with. There is obviously some line that should not be crossed when it comes to dress code, but things such as "4 finger length tank tops" so our shoulders aren't exposed too much is not very reasonable. I understand we are in a learning environment, but every day we see people out of dress code, in stores, at home, walking around, at restaurants. But who are we to tell others how to dress? as long as you feel confident and dress as modest and respectful as you can then there should be no problem. I agree with not showing cleavage as that is something that would be considered inappropriate, but holes in jeans and tank tops that are at least 2 fingers should be fine and allowed. we are in the middle of summer right now and it gets hot having to wear jeans all day... shorts should be allowed. Our principals need to realize that there aren't many clothing stores anymore that sell completely full-length shirts... and appropriate clothing. Although I myself dress appropriately, it makes me sad to hear that girls feel like they are being singled out for what they wear because it's "distracting" to guys.

-12th-grade female

I attend a Williamson County school as a male student. I've overheard girls express their dissatisfaction with the dress code and how unfair it is. Even though I've never been dress-coded, I can imagine how aggravating it would be if it happened to me and to something that I liked and wore. If boys can wear shorts then girls should be able to wear shorts that don't have length restrictions, such as mine. I hope that girls gain the independence to dress the way they want to.

-11th-grade male

I consider myself an activist when it comes to issues that I believe are unjust, such as the LGBTQIA+ community or the lack of access to safe drinking water in third-world nations. Dress code and the prevalent misconception of women and their bodies are another part of the list that I hold dear to my heart. With the current self-love movement, schools that continue to regulate dress code do not reflect evolving cultural attitudes. I do not think that dress code rules provide a safe, happy learning environment in school for female students but rather do the exact opposite. It shames women, and if you dress code you are robbed of instructional time (why you go to school). But more importantly, I feel like it disproportionately targets female students, students of color, and LGBTQIA+ students in our school district.

-12th-grade female

I think that with the changing of the 21st century and the evolution of women's rights in society I think that the dress code in schools takes away from the impact of this movement in schools. At school, we are told to be creative, unique and a place to avoid common societal oppression against women. I think Williamson Counties' dress code and the unfairness against female students in this need to be addressed, changed, and made modern. I feel like the dress code is targeted towards females and their bodies. Something that we can not control what we look like or what our interests are or if we chose to display them through clothing (sports teams, bands, movies etc.) only in an appropriate manner not to distract male students. As Williamson County, you continuously pride ourselves on preparing high school students for college. In college, there is no dress code because dress code does not limit your peers' education as seen through college lectures. Everyone learns the same regardless of what a female wears. Finally, if you decide not to change the dress code I ask that you please hold male students accountable and dress code them when females see their underwear under their shorts, or their shorts not being mid-thigh and their shoulders showing. Yet we can continue to get an education.



-12th-grade female

I believe that it is definitely unfair towards girls because they can't dress and be themselves at school all the time. They can't do it because a few boys aren't able to control themselves, which should be a problem for them to figure out. I feel like it still is unfair towards girls and I think that they should have just as many rights with dress code as males do. Girls should be able to wear what they want, as long as it isn't excessively crazy, and be themselves

-12th-grade male

The dress code has its place at times, but I believe it goes too far. First off, I believe it over-sexualizes women in ways that don't even occur, to begin with; the most evident case of that being the tank top strap rule. Secondly, the length rules for shorts are a little overboard. While yes, the shorts should not expose anyone's bottom, we shouldn't go as far as to say it needs to go below mid-thigh. It is a completely normal part of the body, and if boys were to expose that part I'm sure the school would have no problem with that.

-10th-grade female

The dress code I think is sexist. If school is a place for learning, then why should my article of clothing be a problem? If someone is distracted by my bra strap or upper thigh, that is their problem. Not mine. School should be a place where everyone feels comfortable, and if a teacher feels distracted by it, they're the problem and should never look at a student that way.

-10th-grade female

Yes, it's very annoying that we can't wear stuff that other wilco schools can??? shorts and shirts that show a little bit of stomach?

-11th-grade female

Based on all the information provided, I know that there is really one choice left to make but now it is in your hands as administrative staff. I will continue to do everything in my power to make a life for everyone more equal. I want you to take a minute and think about how you would feel if you were in our shoes. Yes, it is easy to say "I thought about it", but it's very hard to actually take a minute to think. All the facts and information from multiple sources are very valid. I will make a difference whether it's now or after I graduate. I'm not doing this for myself and what I want, but it's being done because it is an actual problem that most staff put to the side as "desired by everyone for the benefit of few". NO, we will not let that stand anymore because it makes us more and more frustrated every day. If we talk about wanting to empower women and make them feel like they have a place, well we are not doing a good job of it. Once again it is for the boys.

I will add that I am not the only one trying to make a change. There are numerous teens throughout Williamson County trying to make the change also. There are petitions going around with hundreds of signatures ready for the change!!!!

I look forward to hearing each one of your responses and the changes and or the impacts going to be made.

Hayden [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]