

The Problem with Dress Code

By Arianna Gama and Ashley Diaz

School dress codes are unfair! In many ways, girls are dress coded more than boys and some of the dress codes are hypercritical. Imagine being in a school that enforces students to wear uniforms and getting in trouble for wearing harmless pieces of clothing that do not work within the uniform standards. It's unfair because we can't wear the clothes we want. For example, we can't wear ripped jeans or colorful sweaters. A lot of students have this problem, and we know this because our friend got dress coded for wearing a plain black T-shirt. It makes students frustrated and stressed, so if they are feeling this way, how are they supposed to learn? Students don't want to go to school upset because of what they're wearing.

School employees are tougher on girls than boys for breaking the dress codes. Girls get in trouble more often than boys even when they're following the dress codes. That might be because girls have more rules. For example, they can't have shorts shorter than their fingertips or wear tank tops. Principals and teachers say that it causes a distraction to boys because they can see their exposed skin. The co-founder of The Family Coach states that, "We need to be teaching the boys what appropriate behavior is instead of teaching the girls that they have to cover up to protect themselves from the boys." (www.cnn.com). In our opinion, boys aren't going to be staring at a girl's shoulder and find it attractive. So we should be able to wear ripped jeans and any sweater we want and express ourselves!

As girls grow up, society tells them that we need to please guys. We came to the world showing our shoulders not knowing that in the future it would be a distraction. The reason for such codes is to prevent a distraction. Laura Bates states, "Often schools go all out and explain that girls wearing certain clothing might 'distract' their male peers [...] and boys can't be expected to control their behavior, so girls are responsible for covering up [...] his education is being prioritized over hers" (educationfind.com). We have been told to be proud of our own skin or to be proud of who we are, but how are we supposed to be proud of our own skin if we're supposed to cover up. We're sorry for you boys that are looked down upon because you can't 'control yourself'. We're sorry we're a 'distraction'

We're being so naive saying we're being a disruption to our male peers. Sure, there would be a point where we would be a distraction for others. There is just some rules that don't make sense and fair to the side of the girl's dress code. What is an appropriate length for shorts? That question was answered by the tip of your hand length, but do you see the dilemma? Everyone has a different length of hands. How ripped can your jeans be? The way that was solved was by not letting students wear ripped jeans.

There are many dress codes that are outdated and should be changed. Our society needs to change on how we view people in certain types of clothes. Schools should be open-minded about strict dress codes. Let's be the voice.