



**The School District of Philadelphia  
South Philadelphia High School**

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# **Southern High School Student Uniform Policy**

## **Parent & Guardian Information Guide**

Dear Southern High School Parents, Guardians, and Students,

At Southern High School, we believe that how we present ourselves matters. Our uniform policy is about much more than clothing. It is about building a culture of pride, professionalism, accountability, safety, and preparation for life beyond high school.

As a school community, we are committed to creating a structured and positive learning environment where all students can focus on academic success, positive relationships, and personal growth. Our uniform policy supports that vision by helping students develop habits that prepare them for college, careers, leadership opportunities, and the real world.

At Southern, we live by our R.A.M.S. expectations:

- **Respectful**
- **Accountable**
- **Mindful**
- **Safe**

We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain high expectations and strong school pride.

## **Why a Uniform Policy?**

The Southern High School uniform policy is designed to:

- Promote a safe and secure school environment
- Increase school pride and unity
- Reduce distractions and peer pressure
- Encourage professionalism and accountability
- Improve the overall climate and culture of the building
- Support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) by helping students build self-awareness, responsibility, and confidence
- Strengthen attendance and student engagement
- Prepare students for workplace and career expectations
- Create consistency and structure throughout the building

We want students to understand that presentation, responsibility, and professionalism matter in real-life opportunities including jobs, internships, college visits, interviews, leadership experiences, and future careers.

This initiative is not simply about enforcement — it is about building a positive school culture and setting standards that help students succeed.

## **Connection to Climate, Attendance, and SEL**

Southern High School recognizes that students perform best when they feel connected, supported, and part of a positive school community.

A consistent uniform policy helps:

- Build a stronger sense of belonging and school identity
- Reduce conflicts and distractions related to clothing
- Improve daily routines and attendance habits
- Support positive peer relationships
- Create a calm, structured learning environment
- Reinforce Social Emotional Learning skills such as self-management, accountability, and responsible decision-making

By improving school climate and creating consistent expectations, we can better support student success both academically and socially.

## **9th Grade Academy Connection**

The transition into high school is one of the most important years in a student's educational journey. Southern High School's 9th Grade Academy focuses on helping freshmen successfully transition into high school through structure, support, relationship-building, and high expectations.

The uniform policy supports the goals of the 9th Grade Academy by:

- Establishing routines and expectations early
- Helping students develop responsibility and organization
- Creating a positive first impression of high school culture
- Promoting readiness for future academic and career opportunities
- Building school pride and community among freshmen students

Our goal is to help every 9th grade student build habits that lead to long-term success throughout high school and beyond.

## **Approved Uniform Options**

### **Tops (Choose One)**

- Black polo shirt with school emblem
- White polo shirt with school emblem
- White button-up dress shirt with school tie

### **Dress Shirt Accessories**

- School-issued tie
- School-approved silk scarf

## **Bottoms (Choose One)**

- Khaki-colored pants
- Black khaki-style pants
- Khaki skirt (knee length or longer)

## **Footwear Expectations**

Students must wear:

- Closed-toe shoes
- Secure, school-appropriate footwear
- Sneakers of any kind

### **Not Permitted**

- Crocs
- Flip flops
- Slides
- Birkenstocks without the back or similar footwear without the back
- Any open-toe shoes

## **Prohibited Clothing Items**

The following items are not permitted:

- Jeans of any kind
- Shorts
- Tights or leggings worn as pants
- Hoodies of any kind
- Sheistys, ski masks, or full-face coverings
- Outerwear worn during the school day unless explicitly approved school gear (excluding hoodies)

## **Outerwear Policy**

- Jackets, coats, and all outerwear must be removed upon entering the building at the school scanners
- Outerwear may not be worn during the instructional day

## **Out-of-Uniform Procedures**

If a student arrives out of uniform:

- Parent/guardian will be contacted
- Parent/guardian may bring appropriate uniform items to school
- Student may be issued a loaner uniform for the day
- Loaner uniforms must be returned before dismissal

Failure to comply with uniform expectations may result in:

- Parent conferences
- Progressive accountability measures
- Loss of privileges for school-wide activities, events, trips, and incentives
- Additional school-based disciplinary consequences

## **Student Incentives & Positive Culture**

Southern High School believes in recognizing students who consistently meet expectations.

Students who demonstrate positive behavior, attendance, academic effort, and consistent uniform compliance may be eligible for:

- Incentive trips
- School events and celebrations
- Student recognition programs
- Leadership opportunities
- Special activities and privileges

Our goal is to create a school culture where students take pride in themselves, their school, and their future.

## **Community Partnership**

This policy was developed with input and feedback from school leadership, teachers, staff members, parents, and students. Southern High School will continue working collaboratively with families and stakeholders to ensure our school environment remains safe, structured, supportive, and focused on student success.

## **Accountability**

Students are expected to represent Southern High School with pride each day by adhering to all uniform expectations.

By working together as a school community, we can maintain a positive environment that reflects the excellence and potential of our students.

## **Southern High School Motto**

**R.A.M.S.**

**Respectful • Accountable • Mindful • Safe**

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in helping Southern High School remain a strong, structured, and successful school community.

**Joshua Torrealba**  
Assistant Principal  
Southern High School