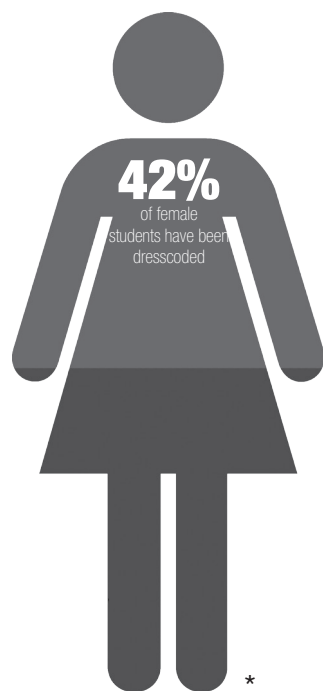


# DRESSED TO IMPRESS...



## Senior points out gender gap in dress code

by **ABBY HILL**  
public relations

Almost every school across America implements a dress code. I for one, am for creating an appropriate school atmosphere. Leave the slippers at home, please! However, certain dress code requirements seem to promote suspiciously misogynic views.

We live in Texas (and Arkansas for some), and that means that temperatures can soar in late summer and spring time. Wearing a tank top or a pair of mom-approved shorts is not a sin; it's practical.

I understand that we don't want

young girls with short shorts and tight fitting clothing flaunting their bodies around. And I get it, there is definitely a line between inappropriate and appropriate. But where does that line exist?

A recurring problem is that young girls are being reprimanded for their bodies, which they cannot control. We feel as though the restrictions are because our bodies are detracting from the learning ability of others.

Some dress codes deem tank tops as inappropriate.

The dress code is in effect because it helps provide an appropriate school environment. What may be appropriate at home may not be appropriate at school.

However, many girls feel as though they are becoming sexualized under the restrictive dress codes even if that is not the reason for the dress code.

The ages of these young ladies range from 14 to 18. As a 14-year-

old girl, you are a child, not a sexual object.

After the initial "You need to go change" conversation is exchanged, the reprimanded girls go grab a new, "appropriate" piece of clothing. This can involve waiting in ISS for a parent, walking to a car to change or even going home. That takes at least 30 minutes out of the girl's class time.

We are told that it is simply inappropriate, but we feel as if the reason is that we are distracting to others around us. We sacrifice our learning time to somehow make our bodies less noticeable.

Misogyny is ingrained prejudice against women. Sadly, we live in a misogynic society, one with wage gaps and "meninists." But, one characteristic of our society is that the youth can sway the future.

We move more away from the 1900s "women stay at home" mentality each year. Our country has been slow, but it is

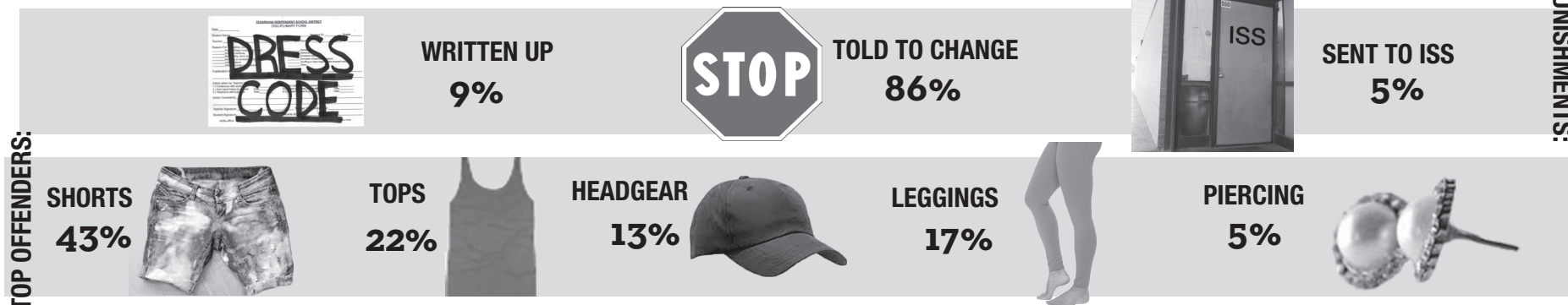
a progressively forward thinking one. A way to keep moving toward a delightful, equal society is subliminally teaching equality at young ages.

I understand if particular body parts are falling out of their clothing, but what is so bad about my shoulders? About my comfortable and warm leggings?

We say that each student has the right to an equal education, but how can we show that? We give financial support to those in need—that's good. Now we should allow young girls to dress practically, and not shame them for having a young woman's body.

I'm not saying we can cure society by letting high school girls wear shorts to school, but it will be a large step into saying "Hey, it's okay to be you! You are a human being, not a distraction!"

I am not the problem. I am not a sexual object. I am a 17-year-old girl.



\*Based on stratified random student surveying

## Senior shares male view on dress code

by **ALEX HEO**  
sports editor

Ever since I started my first day here, I always remembered the dress code as "no sagging and no sleeveless shirts." I never had a problem with it because I don't think guys should show their undergarments out of respect for others, and I only had a couple of sleeveless shirts anyway.

Other parts of the dress code were irrelevant to me because I'm a guy and there was no point in knowing the girls' longer list of banned clothing. Over the years, I realized that the girls' dress code

should be a problem for guys, too.

While most dress codes are written equally for boys and girls, they're not enforced equally.

For instance, in a professional setting, women are allowed to wear sleeveless shirts while boys aren't allowed to. This reason for the enigma confusing. Is this because females have far more attractive shoulders? Does society think male shoulders are so terrible looking that they have to be shunned from the world? I don't know.

Whatever the reason is, the rule is not the same. If the dress code was made equal to everyone, then enforce it the same way for everyone. The same goes for girls, too. While guys like myself have

the ultimate freedom and comfort of having the privilege to wear gym shorts to school, the women don't.

The official reasoning for the dress code is to prevent students from wearing "inappropriate" articles of clothing. However, it is unfair that the school gets to decide on what is and is not inappropriate.

When I have dinner at my house, it is inappropriate to eat with my elbows at the dinner table. Eating with my elbows on the table is deemed inappropriate by who I usually eat with, which is my family.

The term "inappropriate" is set by one's surroundings and the people in them. Therefore, why

couldn't the students have a voice in deciding what's inappropriate here? After all, we make up the majority of people who come to school five days a week.

If anyone is affected by inappropriate clothing, it is the students. We should have the power to shape our own dress code through vote or our elected student government leaders.

Is it so unreasonable of a possibility that we have our student government leaders, department chair leaders and our front office creating a dress code together through meetings? Each person would have a say and a time to voice their opinions. It's not ludicrous. It's called representation.



# ...OR BE SUPPRESSED?