



Booker T. Washington High School Uniforms: Your Questions Answered

To ensure a consistent and professional learning environment, Booker T. Washington High School is implementing a school uniform for all students, effective the first day of school. We've put together this Q&A to help answer common questions.

General Uniform Guidelines

Q: When does the school uniform go into effect?

A: The Washington Cluster is a uniform cluster and all students are encouraged to wear school uniforms starting on the first day of school.

Q: Why are school uniforms being implemented at Booker T. Washington High School?

A: The implementation of school uniforms at Booker T. Washington High School is based on compelling data and research highlighting their positive impact on key aspects of the educational environment, including enhanced safety and security, fostering a stronger sense of belonging, and improving the learning atmosphere.

Enhanced Safety and Security: School uniforms contribute significantly to a safer school environment. By standardizing student attire, it becomes easier for staff to quickly identify enrolled students and spot unauthorized individuals on campus. Studies have shown that schools with uniform policies experience a reduction in crime rates. For instance, research from the Institute of Education Sciences indicated a 30% reduction in crime rates in schools with uniform policies. Furthermore, uniforms can reduce the display of gang colors and insignia, helping to prevent gang-related conflicts; some studies report a 25% decline in gang-related incidents in schools requiring uniforms. This increased visibility and reduction in external distractions allow our security and administrative teams to maintain a more secure environment.

Fostering a Sense of Belonging and Unity: Uniforms help to create a level playing field among students, minimizing visible socioeconomic disparities and reducing peer pressure related to fashion trends. When students wear the same attire, it can promote a sense of collective identity and unity, fostering a more inclusive and less judgmental social environment. A study by the National Association of Elementary School Principals found that 70% of schools with uniforms saw a decrease in bullying incidents, partly due to the elimination of competition over clothing. This shared identity contributes to a stronger sense of community and belonging among our students.

Improved Learning Environment: By reducing distractions related to clothing choices and fashion competition, uniforms allow students to focus more fully on their academic pursuits. When the emphasis shifts from external appearance to academic and personal achievements, it can enhance concentration and create a more conducive atmosphere for learning. While direct links between uniforms and academic achievement are mixed, many educators and studies suggest that uniforms



contribute to better discipline and a more orderly classroom environment, which are foundational for effective learning. A study published in the Journal of Educational Administration found that schools with uniform policies had a more positive school culture, as measured by student surveys.

Purchasing Uniforms

Q: Where can I purchase school uniforms?

A: You have a few options for purchasing uniforms:

- Smart Tees: This vendor offers logoed uniform tops, blazers, oxford shirts, hoodies, plaid skirts, and khaki, navy, or black pants or skirts.
- Other Retailers: You may also purchase uniform shirts and pants from various other retailers, such as Walmart, Old Navy, and similar stores, even without the school logo.

Q: What specific items are considered part of the uniform?

A: The uniform consists of:

- **Tops:** Grade-level specific colored shirts (see below for details). Logoed tops, blazers, oxford shirts, and hoodies from Smart Tees are approved. Non-logoed shirts in the correct color from other retailers are also acceptable.
- **Bottoms:** Khaki, navy, black or plaid, pants or skirts.

Q: What if my family needs support with purchasing uniforms?

A: If you require assistance with purchasing uniforms, please contact our school social worker directly. They can provide information on available resources.

Grade-Level Specifics

Q: Are there different uniform colors for different grade levels?

A: Yes, uniform shirt colors are assigned by grade level:

- Freshman: White shirts
- Sophomores: Gray shirts
- Juniors: Navy blue shirts
- Seniors: Royal blue shirts

Dress Code Exceptions

Q: Will there be opportunities for students to wear regular clothes?

A: Yes, there will be opportunities for students to dress in regular attire on Fridays.



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

One District. One Goal. Every Child.

Booker T. Washington High School
45 White House Dr., SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
Tiauna Crooms
Principal
(404) 802 – 4600

To purchase uniform items with the school crest patch, you may visit the Smartt Tees website at <https://btwhsschooluniforms.promostore.com/> or scan the QR code below:



Additionally, you may purchase plain solid-colored tops in your grade level color from any store that sells apparel such as Walmart, Target, Old Navy, CitiTrends, Amazon, etc.