# What If My School District Doesn’t Have A Dress Code?

If you find yourself working in a district without a dress code, in addition to reaching out to other teachers and human resources, you may want to see how other teachers and student-facing staff are dressed at your school. In addition to dressing professionally, which often includes wearing clothes that are clean in appearance, pressed, and free of tears and stains, it can be helpful to see how others are dressing so that you are not overdressed or underdressed on your first day. We have all experienced a time when we dressed to the nines only to be met with people in casual attire; that can be uncomfortable, not to mention annoying, to be asked repeatedly: *Why are you dressed up?* Seeing how others at your school dress will allow you to avoid this embarrassing question.

If you are unsure how to dress professionally, some suggestions for teacher attire include:

* For bottoms: Khakis, skirts, dress pants, or slacks.
* For tops: Collared shirts or polos, blouses, dress shirts, or suit coats.
* For hair: Keep your hair free of tangles and style it as you see fit.

In the past, teachers may have paid attention to tattoos, body piercings, and hair color; however, many professionals in the 21st Century do not see these things as indicative of professionalism. If you are unsure if your school finds these things unprofessional, review the materials you received upon hire or contact your human resources department for further information.

When selecting your clothing, consider these two things: 1. Comfort is key. You will be wearing these clothes all day, so dress for comfort. 2. How a person dresses elevates them to the respect they want to receive. Kashem (2019) studied the effects of teachers' attire on students' attitudes and learning and found that students perceived a well-dressed teacher as more organized and prepared.

Pro tip: Keep a mirror by your door so that you can check your appearance before leaving for school. This will allow you to finalize your look to ensure you are professionally dressed and confident in your attire.