Loose butterfly sleeves allow for plenty of room to move arms and maintains a school appropriate style.

Front features many flounce silhouettes for a fun dressy look.

Sleek upper skirt allows for comfortable sitting.

High-low style lines have been on trend.

Removing back flounce removes uncomfortable bunching.

Separating zippers at side seam allow for easy don and doff.

Smooth back side prevents the skirt from dragging back and catching under the wheels.

Top and bottom are separate with elastic attaching them to pull pieces back into place.
The target market for my design is non-ambulatory and semi-ambulatory girls, ages 15-18. These girls are in school, and as such, garments must conform to common school dress codes. From my research and interview, I devised the following requirements for the garment design:

1. Garment should be able to be comfortably sat in for several hours.
2. Garment must not catch in wheels of a wheelchair.
3. Waistline must not ride when sitting down, or when arms are stretched up.
4. Garment must have sleeves and should not impede arm movement.
5. Garment must be formal, and school appropriate.

My color palette and inspiration came from trend forecasting on WGSN. I fittingly chose colors similar their Spring 2020 Empower Up! forecast.

Elastic in waist allows for the waist to pull back into place when riding occurs.

Zipper at sides allow for a more comfortable seat while having them be individual separating zippers allows for the wearer to wrap the dress around, avoiding shimmying into it. The end that separates lies at the waist for an easy to reach locations.

During my research, I split the research into two different sections: adaptive clothing, and prom dresses in general. I wanted to get an idea of what was available for both. For the former, I looked into 4 different e-commerce companies that sell adaptive clothing. Of these four, only two sold clothing for young individuals. A vast majority of this clothing was marketed toward an elderly market, despite 43% of wheelchair users being under 65. All of the clothes regardless of age never reached a formality higher than business casual.

I spoke with an individual online about issues they have when choosing clothing. This girl stated the main issues that she has with garments is that the waist will ride in garments with arm movement and sitting down, and that sitting on full skirts in uncomfortable after so many hours.

For researching general prom wear, I looked into video review compilations of prom dresses, to get an idea of girls opinions of dresses. One of these videos the reviewer mentioned that many of her commenters requested more reviews of dresses with sleeves as their school requires sleeves, so I chose to include this into my design.

Flounce motif in silhouette allows for a cohesive design while allowing for movement and a fun vibe with a timeless design feature.

Removing back flounce allows for less bulk in the back of the dress which may cause discomfort.