

Policy

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The Paulsboro Board of Education wishes to adopt a mandatory school dress code policy for students in grades Pre-K through twelfth. It is firmly believed that young people who are safe and secure, who learn basic American values, and the essentials of good citizenship, are better students. Parents, teachers, and school officials have come to see a school dress code as one positive and creative way to reduce discipline problems, prevent future discipline problems from occurring, and increase school safety.

It has been observed that the adoption of a mandatory school dress code can promote school safety, improve discipline, and enhance the learning environment. The Paulsboro Board of Education strongly believes that the following issues would support such a school dress code policy:

- A. An adopted school dress code will create security through identification, enabling school officials to recognize intruders;
- B. A more positive atmosphere conducive to education will be established;
- C. Similar clothing will eliminate peer pressure dealing with student attire;
- D. The dress code will promote a statement of identity;
- E. A sense of school unity will be created;
- F. Students will be instilled with discipline;
- G. School spirit will be enhanced;
- H. The dress code will help assist families with the economic burden of clothing school age children since following the dress code is less costly.

Specific Clothing Requirements for Students

Students shall be required to dress for school according to the following guidelines:

- A. Shirts shall be:
 - 1. Red, red and white, or white polo type shirts with short or long sleeves;
 - 2. Of an appropriate size and fit (not skin tight) for the students;
 - 3. Tucked in or have a tailored bottom not to exceed four inches below waist/belt level.
- B. Outerwear in cold weather shall be:
 - 1. A red, red and white, white or grey sweater;
 - 2. A red, red and white, or white mock turtleneck, that may be worn under the polo shirt;
 - 3. A red, white or grey crew neck sweatshirts, that may be worn over collared polo shirt. Sweatshirts may be plain or with a Paulsboro School or Paulsboro athletic logo;
 - 4. Warm-up style jacket in red only may be worn over the polo shirt.
- C. Rules for wearing outerwear during school:

STUDENT DRESS CODE (continued)

1. Hooded sweatshirts are prohibited;
2. All outerwear shall be of an appropriate size and fit.
3. The polo collar must be worn on the outside of the sweatshirt or other outerwear.

D. Bottoms

1. Male students

- a. Wear beige or blue khaki pants or shorts (seasonal);
- b. Wear pants that are of the appropriate size, length, and fit (not skin tight);
- c. Wear pants properly at the waist (shorts- minimum 5" inseam)
- d. Shall not wear spandex, slitted, or mesh pants or shorts (or on any part of pants or shorts);
- e. Shall not wear baggy, *cargo type pants or shorts, bell bottom pants, or jeans.

2. Female students

- a. Wear beige or blue khaki pants or skorts, shorts (seasonal);
- b. Wear pants, skorts and shorts that are of the appropriate size, length, and fit (not skin tight);
- c. Wear pants, skorts and shorts properly at the waist (shorts- minimum 5" inseam)
- d. Wear tights (of appropriate color) or shorts under skorts.
- e. Shall not wear spandex, slitted, or mesh pants, skorts and shorts (or on any part of pants, skorts or shorts);
- f. Shall not wear baggy, *cargo type pants or shorts, bell bottom pants, or jeans;
- g. Shall not wear clothing with holes, tears, or cuts;
- h. Shall not wear clothing with logos or insignias

**Cargo pants are defined as loosely cut pants designed for tough outdoor activities distinguished by one or more cargo pockets. A cargo pocket is a form of patch pocket, often with accordion folds for increased capacity closing with a flap secured by a snap, button, or Velcro. Cargo pockets may be hidden within the legs.*

E. Foot Apparel

Casual sneakers, dress shoes or boots are permitted. Students' choice of style. Students must wear sneakers on scheduled gym days. Platform sneakers, however, are not be permitted.

General Requirements

The Paulsboro Board of Education believes that personal appearance of an individual begins with tasteful dress, cleanliness, and common sense. Appropriate dress is instrumental in creating a feeling of pride on the part of Paulsboro students resulting in better behavior, greater school spirit, and higher academic achievement.

The following guidelines must be met:

- A. All clothing must be neat, clean, and modest. Clothing which leaves the midriff, back or shoulders exposed shall not be worn. Any clothing which is so tight as to be form fitting is immodest and prohibited. Pants must be worn at the waist;
- B. Garments or accessories imprinted with the following detract from the educational process and therefore are prohibited:
 1. Double meaning;

STUDENT DRESS CODE (continued)

2. Crude phrases or drawings;
 3. Profanity or sexual references;
 4. Slogans or drawings advocating violence.
- C. The following items are prohibited from being worn during school hours:
1. Hats, head bands, bandanas, picks, combs, curlers, hoods, and other head coverings;
 2. Undergarments worn as outer garments;
 3. Sunglasses, unless medically approved by a physician;
 4. Metal/rope chains, spikes, or related items.
- D. Hats are to be removed before entering the building and are not to be put back on until after students leave the building;
- E. Shoes must be worn at all times in school. Shoes do not include flip-flops or slippers. Sandals, secured with back strap, and sneakers are acceptable except where they interfere with safety standards (science labs, wood shops, etc.);
- F. Coats and/or other outer clothing are not to be worn in school, including the cafeteria;
- G. Students must change before and after physical education classes;
- H. The dress code also applies when participating in a school-sponsored activity, during regular school hours;
- I. Not all circumstances are necessarily covered by this dress code. Teachers who have any doubt regarding the attire of a student should send the student to an administrator for clarification.

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 Revised:

Key Word:

Uniforms, Gangs, Dress Code

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
 N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1 Submission of students to authority

Cross References: *5131 Student Conduct and Discipline
 *5142 Student Safety

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Regulation

STUDENT DRESS CODE

MALE STUDENTS

BOTTOMS

Navy or beige khaki pants or shorts (seasonal) of the appropriate size, length, and fit (not skin tight) for the students and worn properly at the waist (shorts – minimum 5" inseam) no spandex, slitted, mesh, baggy, cargo type*, bell bottom pants, or jeans will be permitted. No holes, tears, or cuts in bottoms. No logos or insignias on bottoms. Paulsboro School District or building names will be permitted on shorts.

**Cargo pants are defined as loosely cut pants designed for tough outdoor activities distinguished by one or more cargo pockets. A cargo pocket is a form of patch pocket, often with accordion folds for increased capacity closing with a flap secured by a snap, button, or Velcro. Cargo pockets may be hidden within the legs.*

TOPS

Red, red and white, or white polo type shirts with either short or long sleeves of the appropriate size and fit (not skin tight) for the students. All shirts must be tucked in or have a tailored bottom not to exceed four inches below belt level. In cold weather, red, red and white, white, navy blue, or black sweater of appropriate size and fit (not skin tight) may be worn. A red, red and white, or white mock turtleneck may be worn under the polo type shirts. Students will be permitted to wear red, white, or gray crew neck sweatshirts over their collared polo shirts. These sweatshirts can be plain or with a Paulsboro school or Paulsboro athletic logo. No other logos or insignias are permissible. The polo collar must be worn on the outside of the sweatshirt. If sweatshirts are removed in class or before going to next class, they must be folded and put in a book bag/back pack or carried or put in school locker. They are NOT to be worn over the shoulder with the arms tied in front, nor are they to be worn around the waist (like a skirt). **Under no circumstances will a hooded sweatshirt be permitted.**

FOOT APPAREL

Casual sneakers, dress shoes or boots are permitted. Students' choice of style. Students must wear sneakers on scheduled gym days. Platform sneakers, however, are not be permitted.

SOCKS

Student choice of appropriate socks.

FEMALE STUDENTS

BOTTOMS

Students shall wear navy or beige khaki pants, skorts, or shorts (seasonal) of the appropriate size, length, and fit (not skin tight) for the students and worn properly at the waist (shorts – minimum 5" inseam) no spandex, slitted, mesh, baggy, cargo type*, bell bottom pants or jeans will be permitted. No holes, tears, or cuts in bottoms. No logos or insignias on bottoms. Paulsboro School District or building names will be permitted on

STUDENT DRESS CODE (continued)

shorts. Appropriate jumpers may be **worn only at Billingsport School**. Girls will wear tights (of appropriate color) or shorts under jumpers (only at Billingsport) or under skorts at Loudenslager and PHS.

**Cargo pants are defined as loosely cut pants designed for tough outdoor activities distinguished by one or more cargo pockets. A cargo pocket is a form of patch pocket, often with accordion folds for increased capacity closing with a flap secured by a snap, button, or Velcro. Cargo pockets may be hidden within the legs.*

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FOOT APPAREL

Casual sneakers, dress shoes or boots are permitted. Students' choice of style. Students must wear sneakers on scheduled gym days. Platform sneakers, however, are not be permitted.

SOCKS/STOCKINGS

Student choice of appropriate socks/stockings.

Financial Considerations

- A. No student shall be denied attendance at school, penalized, or otherwise subject to compliance measures for failing to follow the dress code by reason of financial hardship.
- B. Once a dress code is adopted, the school shall:
 - 1. Develop a procedure and criteria to identify families in need of financial assistance to be reviewed every April by the Paulsboro Board of Education.
 - 2. Determine the form and type of financial assistance appropriate for the individual school community.
 - 3. Designate a specific staff member/school volunteer to assist those families in need of assistance.
- C. Each school shall work with staff, the local school community, and business partners to identify resources for assisting families.

Financial Assistance Criteria

STUDENT DRESS CODE (continued)

If a family is in need of financial assistance to follow the dress code that family is required to produce the following information:

1. Current 1040 Form
2. W-2 Form
3. Letters of Verification/Support of need/State or Federal Aid documents or Unemployment Letter

The building administrator will verify such information and submit appropriate paperwork to the district business office.

Voucher Process

1. Request for financial consideration may only come from a parent/guardian
2. Request form must be signed by a parent/guardian
3. All request forms shall be submitted to the principal or his/her designee
4. Once approved, the completed request, verification and request forms are to be sent to the school business administrator's office for issuance of voucher.
5. Vouchers will be confidentially distributed at the school.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSE

The administration reserves the right to restrict any clothing determined to interfere with the instructional process. In addition, the administration reserves the right to allow changes to the dress code for special days. Transfer students will have a ten (10) school day time period in which to comply with the district dress code.

Compliance Incentives:

Each school shall develop incentives and positive reinforcement measures to encourage full compliance with the dress code. In addition, the school principal shall communicate expectations, rationale, and benefits to the parents so that they are fully understood by the student and his/her family.

No student shall be considered non-compliant with the policy in the following instances:

- A. When a student wears a button, armband, or other accouterment to exercise the right to freedom of expression protected by the United States and/or New Jersey Constitution.
- B. When a student wears the uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts on regular meeting days.
- C. When a student wears religious apparel of a recognized denomination or sect that precludes them from wearing any other clothing.

The Paulsboro Board of Education makes it known that sanctions will be rendered upon students who refuse to conform to this policy. The sanctions are as follows:

REFUSAL TO CONFORM TO SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Paulsboro High School

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1st Offense | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conference with student2. Phone call to parent/guardian indicating that student will get letter3. Warning letter sent home with student (letter must be returned with signature of parent/guardian) |
| 2nd Offense | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Letter and phone call to parent/guardian (requesting parent/guardian : bring change of clothing as per dress code) - letter to be signed by parent/guardian2. One after school detention after parent/guardian notification |

STUDENT DRESS CODE (continued)

- 3. Letter listing consequences for 3rd offense
- 3rd Offense:)
 - 1. Letter, phone call, and conference with parent/guardian
 - 2. Two after school detentions at Paulsboro High School
 - 3. Letter listing consequences for 4th offense
- 4th & Subsequent Offenses:
 - 1. One day suspension for each 4th and subsequent offenses

Loudenslager Elementary School

- 1st Offense
 - 1. Conference with student
 - 2. Phone call to parent/guardian indicating that student will get letter
 - 3. Warning letter sent home with student (letter must be returned with signature of parent/guardian)
- 2nd Offense
 - 1. Letter and phone call to parent/guardian (requesting parent/guardian : bring change of clothing as per dress code) - letter to be signed by parent/guardian
 - 2. Lunch detention
 - 3. Letter listing consequences for 3rd offense
- 3rd Offense
 - 1. Letter, phone call, and conference with parent/guardian
 - 2. Two days of lunch detention
 - 3. Letter listing consequences for 4th offense
- 4th & Subsequent Offenses:
 - 1. One day after school detention
 - 2. After 4th infraction student will be suspended for one day

Billingsport Elementary School

- 1st Offense
 - 1. Conference with student
 - 2. Phone call to parent/guardian indicating that student will get letter
 - 3. Warning letter sent home with student (letter must be returned with signature of parent/guardian)
- 2nd Offense
 - 1. Letter and phone call to parent/guardian (requesting parent/guardian : bring change of clothing as per dress code) - letter to be signed by parent/guardian
 - 2. Letter listing consequences of 3rd offense
- 3rd Offense
 - 1. Letter and phone call asking for change of clothing.

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