LOUDENSLAGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENT DRESS CODE (2023 - 2024)

The Paulsboro Board of Education hereby adopts a mandatory school dress code policy for students in grades Pre-K through twelfth. A school dress code is a positive and creative way to reduce discipline problems, prevent future discipline problems from occurring, and increase school safety. The Board firmly believes dress code enforcement begins at home. Parents/Guardians have the primary responsibility to ensure that their children understand and adhere to the Paulsboro Public Schools' dress code, and arrive at school appropriately dressed and groomed.

The Paulsboro Board of Education believes that the 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.

Specific Guidelines:

All students should take pride in their appearance and must dress properly in accordance with the following:

1. Sleeveless tops shall not be permitted. All tops are required to have some type of sleeve that fully covers the student's shoulder, as well as his/her upper part of the arm. A sleeveless sports jersey may be worn, as long as it is worn with a shirt and/or t-shirt, with sleeves under it.

2. Tops, such as bare midriffs, crop tops, halter tops, tank tops, transparent tops that may include but not be limited to mesh, chiffon, or other clothing that is revealing, and/or tops that expose a student's cleavage, shall not be permitted. Clothing, such as flannel pants and pajamas, that is designed primarily for use as sleepwear, loungewear, and/or undergarments, shall not be permitted.

3. Clothing that displays words and/or symbols, that is either suggestive, obscene, depicts inappropriate symbolism, or which may be disruptive of normal proceedings, shall not be permitted. Such displays shall include, but not be limited to the following: alcohol, bigotry, drugs and/or substance abuse, gang membership, profanity, satanic or similar type of ornaments, sex, slander, violence, weapons, etc.

4. All pants, jeans, skirts, skorts, and shorts of the appropriate size, length and fit (not skin tight) for the students and worn properly at the waist (shorts minimum size inseam 5") no spandex, slitted, mesh, baggy cargo type*Bell bottom pants will be permitted. No holes, tears or cuts in bottoms, no mini skirts. * Cargo pants are defined as loosely cut pants designed for tough outdoor activities distinguished by one or more cargo pocket.

5. All pants, jeans, skirts, skorts, and shorts must be worn properly at the waist. No students shall be permitted to wear sagging pants that cause exposure of the student's undergarments.

6. All skirts, skorts, and shorts must be of proper length (i.e., equal to a student's fingertips when

his/her arms are placed by his/her sides).

7. Tights or leggings may be worn only when accompanied with an appropriate top/shirt, which must be long enough so that it extends beyond a student's fingertips when his/her arms are placed by his/her sides.

8. Head coverings shall not be permitted unless worn for religious and/or medical purposes. Such head coverings that are not permitted include: bandanas, caps, combs, curlers, doo-rags, hats, headbands, hoods, picks, sweatbands, etc. Students may wear such head coverings upon arriving to and departing from school; however, such head coverings are not to be worn or carried throughout the school day.

9. Acceptable shoes must be worn at all times. Flip-flops and/or slippers shall not be permitted. A student's choice in shoes should not interfere with safety standards (i.e., science labs, woodshops, etc.).

10. Outerwear, such as coats, hats, gloves, scarves, hoodies, etc., shall not be permitted to be worn during the school day. Students may wear such outerwear upon arriving to and departing from school.

11. Students shall not be permitted to wear any of the following during the school day: sunglasses (unless medically approved by a physician); metal/rope chains, spikes, or related items; and long or excessive chains or straps of any kind.

12. Armbands and/or buttons may be worn, unless the manner of expression materially and substantially interferes with the orderly operations of the school.

13. For Grades Pre-K through 6 – students may wear such clothing worn while actively participating in physical education class, such as sweatsuits, etc., during that school day that the student participates in physical education class.

14. For Grades 7 through 12 – physical education attire, such as sweatsuits, etc., may not be worn during the school day. Students are only permitted to wear such clothing during physical education class. Students shall be responsible for bringing another change of clothes that adheres to the dress code as set forth above to wear before and after physical education class.

15. Students attending school functions shall not be permitted to participate in the same unless they adhere to the dress code policy as outlined above.

16. Students attending an award or recognition ceremony are expected to dress appropriately. Male students are expected to wear dress shirts, ties, and pants. Female students are expected to wear a shirt with pants, or dress. Students who do not dress appropriately will not be permitted to participate in said award or recognition ceremony. School administrators reserve the right to make the final decision as to the appropriate nature of the clothing/item or message displayed,

and whether the student may participate in said award or recognition ceremony.

As the dress code as set forth above cannot fully predict all circumstances, the Board provides the building principal or his/her designee with the authority to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a student's dress is appropriate for the educational environment. Moreover, there may be exemptions to the dress code as set forth above (e.g., during Spirit Week, special Holidays, etc.) – again, this shall be at the building principal or his/her designee's discretion. Students found to be in violation of the dress code as set forth above will first be given the opportunity to change their clothes, call a family member to bring a change of clothes to school, or borrow clothes from a friend. In the event said student cannot change his/her clothes, he/she will be required to change into a clothes provided by the school until the end of the school day, at which time he/she will be permitted to change back into his/her clothing.