



The 2026-2027 Campus Compass

A visual quick-guide to the Paterson Public
Schools Student & Parent Handbook.

Navigating the rules, rights, and resources for a successful school year.



Academic Blue



Operations
Green



Technology
Orange



Conduct Red

Our foundation is built on holistic development and inclusive growth.

Empowering every student with critical skills for future success in a dynamic, inclusive, and equitable learning environment.



Excellence



Equity



Integrity



Community



Innovation



Collaboration



Accountability



Inclusivity

Success requires a shared community partnership.



Academic excellence is earned, measured, and consistently reported.

Grading Scale

A+ (96-100) / 4.33 Wgt

B (82-85) / 3.00 Wgt

C (72-75) / 2.00 Wgt

D (63-66) / 1.00 Wgt

F (0-62) / 0.00 Wgt

Reporting Cycle

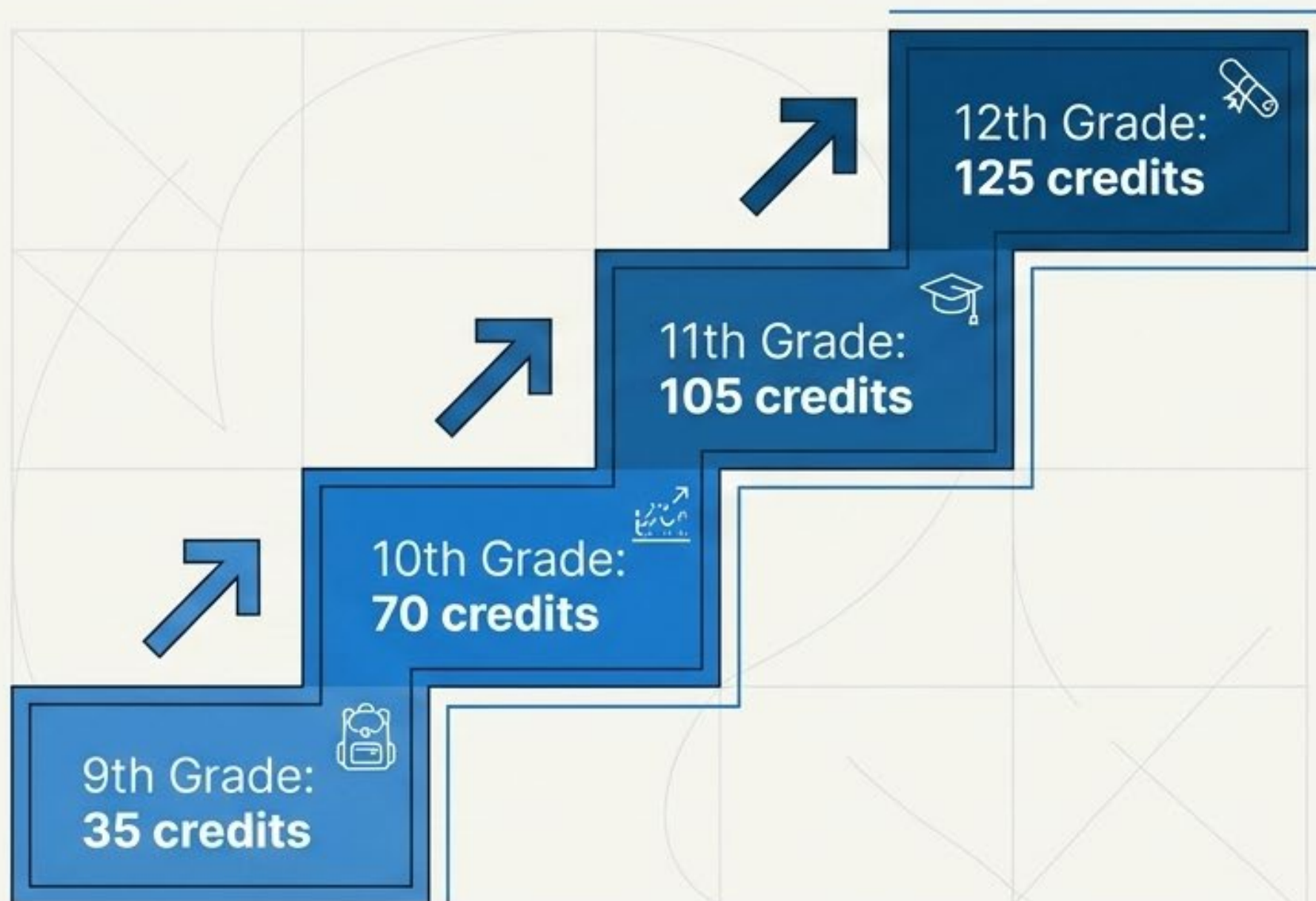


All via Infinite Campus

The End of Social Promotion

Students who do not demonstrate proficiency in language arts and math will be retained and required to attend mandatory summer school.

The 125-Credit Path to a High School Diploma.



Required Core Credits

- ✓ **ELA** (20 cr)
- ✓ **Math** (15 cr - Alg I & Geo required)
- ✓ **Science** (15 cr)
- ✓ **Social Studies** (15 cr)
- ✓ **PE/Health** (15 cr)
- ✓ **Visual/Performing Arts** (5 cr)
- ✓ **World Languages** (5 cr)
- ✓ **21st Century Life/Careers** (5 cr)
- ✓ **Financial Literacy** (2.5 cr)

Safe daily operations rely on precise arrival and dismissal protocols.

Arrival

(7:30 AM – 8:20 AM)

Breakfast served. No early drop-offs before the first bell (no supervision available).



Lateness Protocol



Students arriving late are never turned away, but must sign in at the Main Office to receive credit for classes attended.



Dismissal

(3:00/3:10 PM)

Grades 3-12 released only to parents unless specific forms are on file.



Unaccompanied Dismissal Form

Required for a student to walk home alone.



Pick-Up Permission Form

Required to be escorted by an emergency contact with Photo ID.

Showing up matters: Distinguishing absences from truancy



Chronic Absenteeism

Missing 10% of the year /
18 days for ANY reason



Truancy

Unexcused absences only

Penalty Escalator

2-7 Days
Unexcused



Parent phone calls from
administration

10 Days



Legally Truant

Home visit + Mandatory
court appearance

15-18 Days



Chronically Absent

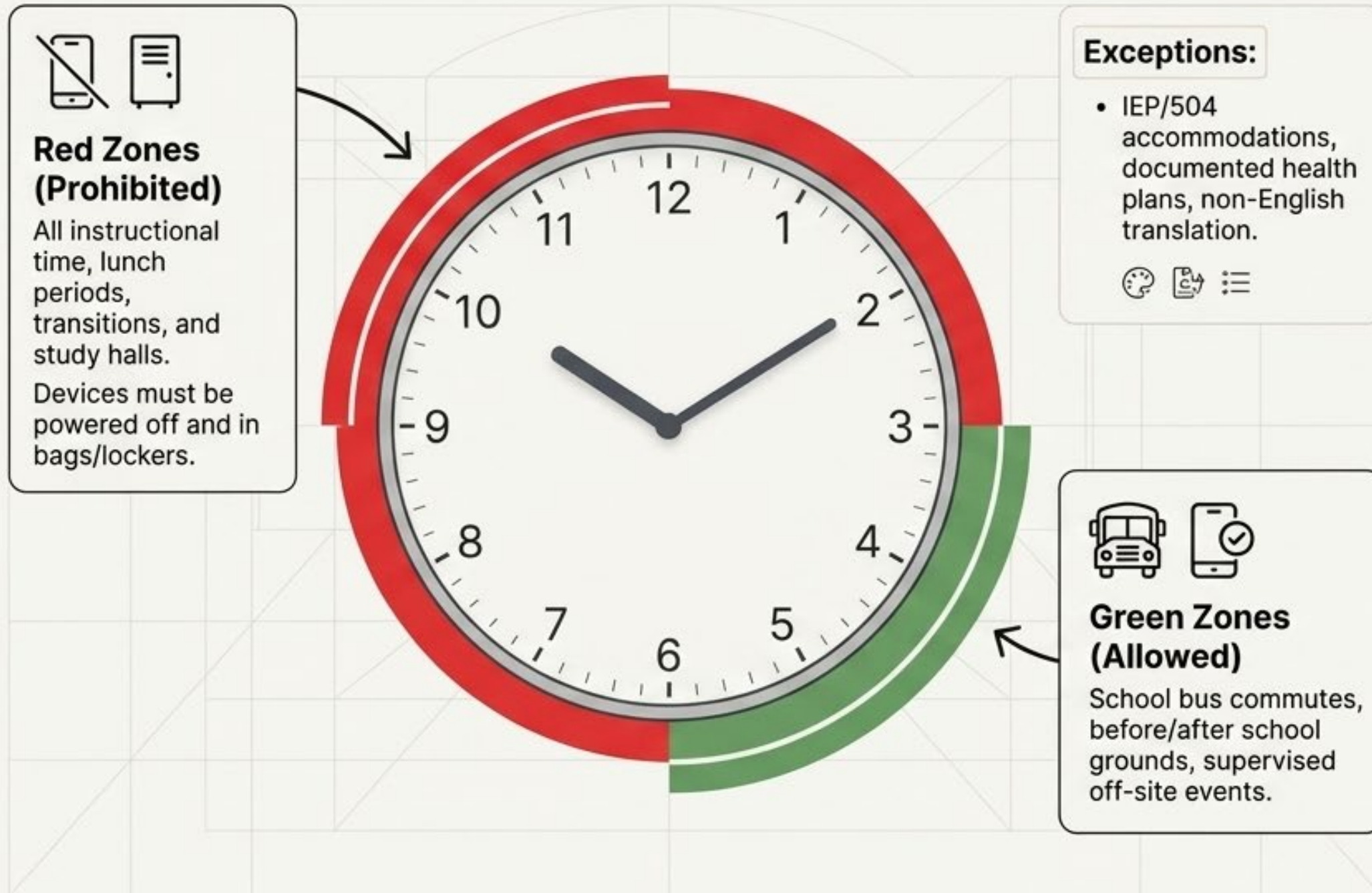
Mandatory hearings,
potential loss of course credit,
or grade retention



Tardiness Rule:

- 5 unexcused tardies = 1 unexcused absence.
- 3 tardies = warning + detention.

The “Bell to Bell” device policy protects instructional focus.



Digital Citizenship, Chromebook Care, and ethical AI usage.



AI Do's:

- Use as a tool to brainstorm, practice skills, and research.
- Verify all generated information.



AI Don'ts:

- Do not use to complete work on your behalf.
- Do not share personal or confidential information with AI platforms.



Chromebook Rules

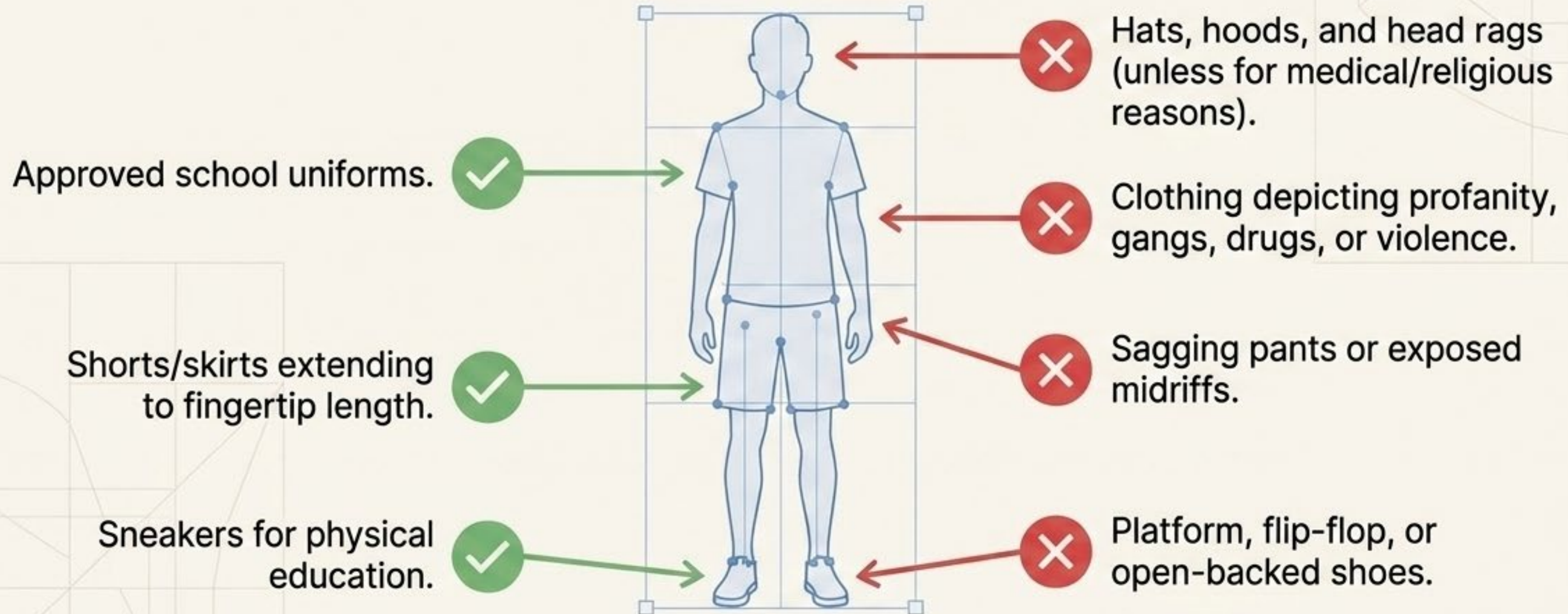
Bring charged daily. Only log in with @patersonschools.org.



Monitoring Notice

All devices are actively monitored via GoGuardian and Gaggle for explicit material and self-harm alerts (Anti-Big Brother Act compliance).

Maintaining a focused campus environment through appropriate attire.



Note: Changing into gym clothing is optional for high school students provided daily wear meets safety requirements.

Protecting student health, physical safety, and constitutional rights.



Medications

- Must be stored with the nurse.
- Self-administration (e.g., Epi-Pens, inhalers) requires doctor orders and liability waivers.



Searches

- Lockers are district property and subject to search.
- Metal detectors may be used.



Surveillance

- Cameras actively monitor all campuses.



Free Speech & Demonstrations

- Students retain First Amendment rights.
- Protests are allowed but subject to time/place/manner restrictions (non-instructional times, designated areas).
- Hate speech and disruptions are strictly prohibited.

The Code of Conduct: Three tiers of infractions and consequences.

Category I (Disruptions)

Tech violations, dress code, defiance, profanity.

Penalty: Warning, parent notification, detention.

Category II (Harm/Theft)

Repeated Cat I, theft, aggressive contact, sexting, HIB, smoking, trespassing.

Penalty: Parent conference, police referral, 1-5 day suspension.

Category III (Severe/Illegal)

Weapons, arson, assault on staff, sexual assault, substance abuse, bomb threats.

Penalty: Mandatory IAES placement, up to 10-day out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

Balancing Restorative Practices with Mandatory Discipline.



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Required Agreements: Finalizing our community partnership.



Acceptable Use of Technology

Agrees to educational use only, copyright compliance, and accepts financial/disciplinary liability for misuse.



Media & Publicity Release

Grants (or declines) consent for the student's name, image, and work to be featured in district publications and social media.



Equipment Loan Agreement

Acknowledges receipt of district Chromebooks, agrees to cover a \$60 insurance fee for replacements if lost/stolen, and mandates prompt return at year-end.



Essential resources for a successful school year.



Infinite Campus Portal

Check grades, attendance, and schedules in real-time.

Access via the 'Parents' tab at
www.paterson.k12.nj.us.



Student ID Health Resources

All High School IDs feature critical support numbers on the back:

- NJ Suicide Prevention Hopeline (855-654-6735)
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988)
(Lost IDs cost \$5 to replace).

Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school secretary today to guarantee access to alerts and the Parent Portal.

