



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DISTRICT AWARDED FEDERAL 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER GRANT FOR AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS**

*Five-year grant will provide STEAM education at Public Schools No. 2 and 16*

PATERSON – District officials announced today that Paterson Public Schools has been awarded a federal Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, which will be used for afterschool and summer programs at Public School No. 2 and Public School No. 16.

The programs will focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education for about 180 students in grades 3 through 8, and include field trips, counseling for students, and workshops for parents. Through the grant, the district will receive a maximum of \$425,000 per year for five years.

“This is a much appreciated boost to our efforts to help students regain their pre-pandemic learning momentum. Our students will benefit from the added learning opportunities we’ll be able to provide after school and during the summer,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “This award is also proof-positive that our Full Service Community Schools program is effectively meeting the needs of students and their families and helping them achieve success.”

Shafer thanked Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Kemper McDowell and Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau for their efforts in securing the grant.

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

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