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## **DISTRICT'S \$7,500 PRE-EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS BRING IN 115 NEW TEACHERS**

*Without the program, teaching vacancies would be nearly 80 percent higher*

PATERSON – Despite an ongoing national teacher shortage that continues to affect Paterson Public Schools students, the district has been able to hire 115 new teachers with the help of the \$7,500 pre-employment agreements it began offering since the Board of Education approved the program on September 14th.

Currently, there are 146 teacher vacancies in the district, a number that would have been nearly 80 percent higher without the pre-employment agreements.

“The evidence is clear that the pre-employment agreements have been effective in recruiting qualified teachers to Paterson Public Schools and helping us limit the number of our vacancies,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “It has always been our goal to recruit teachers to Paterson Public Schools. We are reaching that goal with the help of our incentive program.”

Shafer thanked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Luis Rojas and his team for their efforts in maintaining the pre-employment agreement program and recruiting teachers for the district.

“The most important job we have in this business of education is putting certified teachers in front of our students in our classrooms,” Shafer added. “This effective recruiting strategy is doing exactly that.”

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