

For Immediate Release

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PPS Leadership Gathers to Fortify 2025-2030 Strategic Framework

Multi-stage process follows months of analysis and community feedback

Paterson, NJ (June 5, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, and Commissioners of the Paterson Board of Education convened on Saturday, May 31st to continue their vital work on developing the district’s Strategic Framework that will span the years 2025 to 2030. The board retreat was held at John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson.

“This work is about creating lasting, meaningful change for our students and families,” said Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “We’re not just looking at the numbers, we’re listening to our community, and building a shared vision that ensures every child in Paterson has access to a world-class education.”

A [multi-stage process](#) that began with comprehensive data acquisition and will culminate in a draft for community and key stakeholder review, the 2025-2030 Strategic Framework for PPS is rooted in its mission to nurture the holistic development of every student. The Framework’s vision is to create a vibrant and inclusive school community where empowered students have diverse opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive, supported by strong partnerships with families and the wider community.

“This Framework is about being bold and honest with ourselves - looking closely at what’s working and where we must do better,” said President of the Board of Education Eddie González. “We owe it to our students to make smart, student-centered decisions that lift the entire district.”

The Framework is crafted based on the district’s prior assessment results on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJLSA). The data from those results – analyzed meticulously to pinpoint areas that require focused intervention and improvement – led to the creation of the Paterson Progress Plan (PPP). The PPP is made up of five core “levers”: human resources, data literacy, staff capacity, principal capacity, and parental support.

“The five levers came directly from our data and the feedback of those who work with students every day,” said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, who was the main architect of the plan. “This Framework aligns our district so that everyone – educators, families, and students – is pulling in the same direction. Our progress will be intentional and measurable.”

The establishment of these five levers were further instilled following monthly meetings between district and school leadership. Additionally, Dr. Newell and the Board of Education tasked Hazard,

Young, Attea and Associates (HYA) to produce an external audit of key departments to assess current practices and offer guidance to align strategy with measurable outcomes.

Feedback from the community played a critical role in building the foundation of the Strategic Framework. Insights, perspectives, and ideas were expressed through multiple community surveys and forums that were centered around understanding the importance of a strategic plan, evaluating strengths and opportunities for growth, and reviewing the HYA audit findings and its connections to the five levers.

“What sets Paterson apart is not just a vision-but the disciplined execution of it. Under Dr. Newell’s leadership, the district has undertaken comprehensive audits in special education, human resources, institutional programs, gifted and talented services, and operations-ensuring that every system is examined and improved with intentionality,” said HYA consultant Dr. Shawn Joseph. “Their approach is grounded in measurable KPIs, evidence-based practices, and a relentless commitment to quality implementation.”

Without key input from community surveys, forums, and active participation from parents, staff, and community leaders, this draft of the 2025-2030 Strategic Framework would not be able to stand. Paterson Public Schools encourages additional feedback as it looks to finalize its next Strategic Plan over the next several months. To play a crucial role in helping shape the future of Paterson Public Schools, please review the [Strategic Framework](#) and fill out this [Community Feedback form](#).

“This plan is about Paterson’s future,” added Dr. Newell. “And the future is something we will build-together.”

For more information about Paterson Public Schools visit our [website](#).

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 26,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey’s third-largest city. About 70.6% of the student population is Hispanic, 16.3% are Black, 6.5% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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