

For Immediate Release

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Paterson Public Schools Announces Significant Growth in New Jersey GPA Scores

Scores for district's multilingual learners also increased over previous academic year

Paterson, NJ (August 7, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools' juniors demonstrated remarkable progress on the 2024-2025 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA), outpacing the state's overall growth in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The district's 11th grade students achieved an 8% increase in Mathematics and a 7% increase in ELA proficiency – compared to the state's gain of 3% in Math and 1% decrease in ELA. NJGPA is designed to measure the extent to which students are graduation ready in ELA and Mathematics.

Additionally, Paterson Public Schools' multilingual learners – students who are developing proficiency in multiple languages – progressed in their WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test scores. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 measures students' abilities to understand and produce English used within school settings.

“Our staff – from administrators to school leadership, to our teachers – has been working tirelessly to move Paterson Public Schools forward by turning the data that we receive into action,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “These results show that we are raising the level of expectations in all areas, and they are leading to improved student outcomes. While we are outpacing the state's growth percentages, we know that there is still work to be done. This does not happen without the support of our Board of Education Commissioners, and the administrators, school leadership, and teachers that are committed to moving the academic needle across the board.”

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, who is the architect of the [Paterson Progress Plan: Five Levers for Accelerating Achievement](#), stated that he was heartened by the results. “I am pleased to see these results and grateful to all the staff members,” said Dr. Henderson. “We expect to see more positive results in the future.”

Three high schools in the district saw double-digit increases in their ELA performance scores with Paterson P-Tech High School and International High School seeing 11% increases and Eastside High School posting a 10% increase. Both P-Tech and Paterson STEAM performed exactly at the state level with an 81% proficiency rating in ELA. Also, STEAM High School's ELA performance jumped by 5% and John F. Kennedy High School's score rose by 2%.

“Paterson Public Schools is moving in the right direction when it comes to student proficiency and that's a testament to the work that has been done at the school level,” said Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services and Special Programs Joanna Tsimpedes. “I commend all the teachers, staff, administrators, and students for their commitment and dedication. We will continue to put in the

work, but we are on the right track as we see continued increases in our students' academic performance and monumental, double-digit gains at multiple schools.”

In Mathematics, Paterson Public Schools nearly doubled their increase in performance level at 8%, compared to the state which saw a 3% improvement. STEAM High School saw a dramatic jump in its Mathematics score with a 25% year-over-year increase in proficiency and International High School finished 2024-2025 with an impressive 19% jump. In total, six of Paterson Public Schools' seven high schools showed positive growth in Mathematics. Newcomers High School, which had an 11th grade class for the first time in 2024-2025, displayed a 3% improvement.

“Congratulations to Ms. Tsimpedes and her team for all of the hard work,” said Board of Education President Eddie Gonzalez. “Kudos to you and your staff for the amazing work that you've done.”

“Congratulations to the staff and I can't say how proud I am of the hard work the academic team has put in throughout the entire year,” said Board of Education Vice President Joel D. Ramirez. “Let us continue to utilize best practices to keep our numbers growing in the right direction. Double-digit growth is monumental.”

With an increase of more than 300 multilingual learners from the previous school year, Paterson Public Schools still saw a 1% increase of students who scored higher than 4.5 on a five-point scale in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment. A student can be eligible to exit a school's bilingual program when the student receives a Composite Proficiency Level (CPL) of 4.5 or higher. As a result, the student will no longer receive ESL service. Paterson Public Schools continues to examine the resources available to multilingual learners to ensure that the district is meeting students' needs.

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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