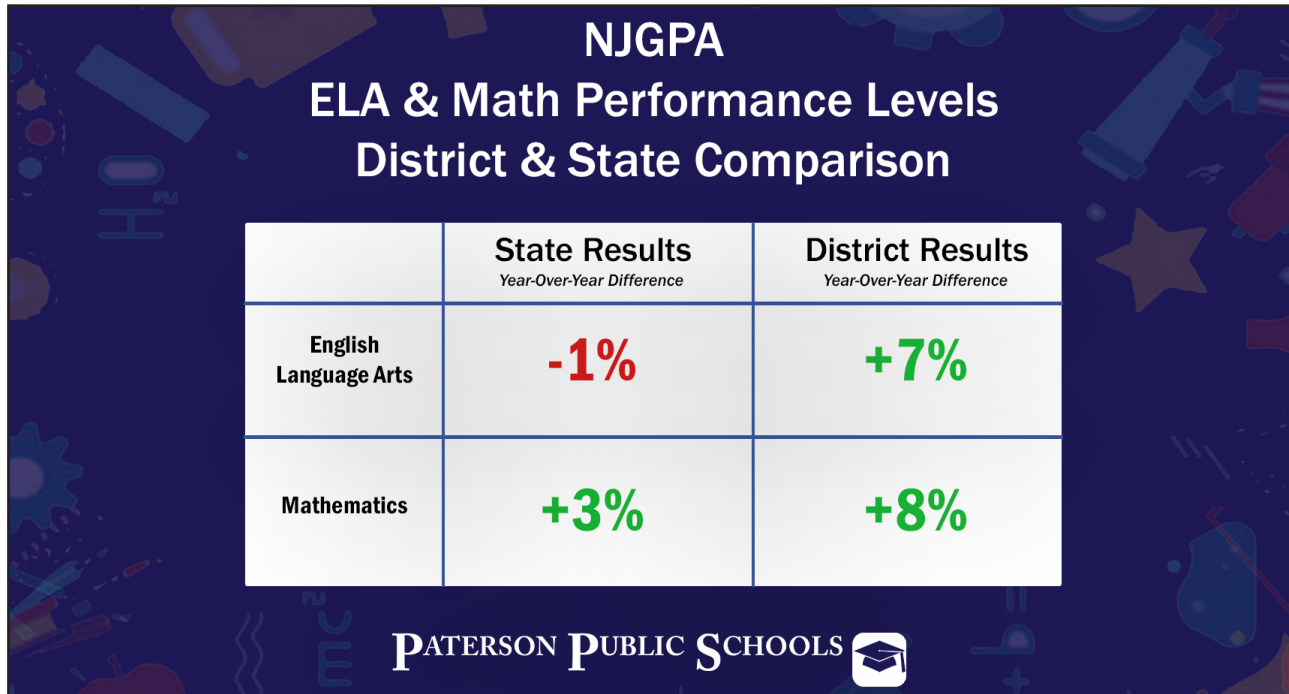




CONGRATULATIONS PPS' JUNIORS AND MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS!



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.”

[Read the full press release here.](#)

Preparing for the School Year and Building on our Progress

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

I hope that you all are having a restful and restorative summer. While summers are always much needed in order to recharge after a school year, it's usually around this time where educators and administrators begin to focus on preparing for the upcoming academic year. Lesson plans are being developed, classrooms are being prepped, and professional development workshops for school leadership and teachers are slated to begin at the end of this month. While we prepare, we can't help but feel excited to see the return of our imaginative and prideful Paterson Public Schools students.

Our collective efforts in the classroom during the 2024–2025 school year laid a strong foundation for continued growth, and I am proud to highlight the assessment performances put forth by our high school juniors and our multilingual learners. On the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment, our juniors posted an 8% improvement in Mathematics and a 7% improvement in English Language Arts. Additionally, even as the district gained 300 new multilingual learners last year, Paterson Public Schools still saw a 1% increase of students who scored higher than a 4.5 on a five-point scale in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment. These accomplishments reflect the commitment and dedication of our entire school community, but especially our students, who have put in the work and are seeing positive results.

Special Moments for our Students

One of the most rewarding parts about working in education is witnessing the maturation process of a young person; watching students go from children in our preschool programs to young adults navigating the next steps of their life's journey. Their active minds are always thinking of creative ways to reshape the world they live in. The creativity of a fourth-grade classroom from Renaissance One School of Humanities was on display in print on July 27th, when students wrote opinion pieces in the New York Times for Kids pullout section that is published in the paper's prestigious Sunday edition. This unique experience helped teach these students important lessons about journalistic practices, such as the difference between news reporting and opinion.

These fourth-graders are on their way to doing exceptional things with their lives if they maintain their curiosity and willingness to learn. They are on a path to achieve what other Paterson Public Schools students accomplished on August 2nd at the annual New Jersey Community Development Corporation College Sendoff, where students were awarded scholarships and celebrated before taking the next step in their academic journeys. These students are the pride of Paterson because they remained steadfast in their commitment to learning. Our district and their city has provided them the tools necessary to be successful, and I know that they will continue to make us proud.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Paterson Public Schools. Please enjoy the rest of your summer and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back on September 4th!

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie W. Newell
Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson helped celebrate Paterson Public Schools' college-bound seniors at the annual NJCDC Paterson College Sendoff.

PATERSON SENDS OFF ITS COLLEGE FRESHMEN



Paterson Public Schools once again partnered with the New Jersey Community Development Corporation to celebrate and reward multiple high school graduates at the 11th Annual College Sendoff on August 2nd at the Rogers Meeting Center in Paterson.

The event recognized the exceptional academic achievements of Paterson's college-bound high school graduates and awarded nearly \$30,000 in scholarships.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell made remarks at the ceremony that alluded to the willingness to fail and to learn from those experiences.

“Every setback is not a setback,” said Dr. Newell. “It’s a lesson for you to move on to the next level. Don’t be afraid to take on new experiences.”

Dr. Newell continued: “As a mom, I know what it takes to pour into children. And I want for all of you what I want for my own kids — success, fulfillment, and purpose.”

HUMAN RESOURCES HOSTS SEVERAL SUMMER JOB FAIRS

Paterson Public Schools' Department of Human Resources had a successful summer hosting several job fairs at the district's Central Office as the staff welcomed job seekers and looked to identify the best candidates for the district's needs.

The department, led by Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Luis Rojas, hosted three in-person job fairs with the goal of onboarding certified teachers with various levels of experience. The department's first certified teacher job fair of the summer took place on July 8th and it featured iHeart Radio's 103.5 FM KTU's Street Team. Led by KTU on-air personality Bartel, the Street Team treated those attending the job fair to games, prizes, and giveaways. Human Resources also put on in-person job fairs on July 24th and August 12th.

Along with Human Resources' virtual teacher certification fairs, which offer invaluable resources to those interested in becoming a certified teacher, the department will continue to host job fairs at Central Office as it prepares for a successful 2025-2026 school year.





SUMMER SCHOOL AND EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS



Paterson Public Schools concluded another successful season of Summer School and Extended School Year programs that are focused on academic preparedness, academic enrichment, and keeping students engaged in their school community during the summer months. Below is a list of Summer School and Extended School Year programs:

21st Century Community Learning Centers

- School 2
- Youth Education Academy: School 2, School 2, School 8, and John F. Kennedy High School
- Paterson Education Fund: Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School and School 15
- School 16
- Compete for Life Program (New Jersey Community Development Corporation): John F. Kennedy High School and International High School
- Boys & Girls Club: Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Science & Technology
- School 10
- School 13

High School Summer School Program

International High School

The High School Summer School Program offered critical assistance for high school students who needed to recover credits and stay on track to graduate.

Write On Sports

Joseph A. Taub School

Students in sixth through eighth grades were immersed in a literacy and journalism program that helped discover their voice as a writer. The program also taught students to compose pieces about their interests and points of view using sports as a theme to connect their writing.

Summer Special Education Extended School Year Program for Students with Disabilities

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Complex
- School 16
- School 28
- Maria Magda O'Keefe School
- Joseph A. Taub School
- Paterson STEAM/T.I.E.S. High School

Education Plus

Edward W. Kilpatrick School

The program's goal is to increase their students desire to learn, improve their grades, and help them improve their social skills by providing a safe and healthy learning environment.

Full Service Community Schools Summer Programs

Alonzo "Tambua" Moody Academy

This program offered students the opportunity to participate in college and career readiness, credit recovery, enrichment, and recreational activities.

New Jersey Youth Corps and Paterson Adult and Continuing Education (PACE)

Paterson Adult and Continuing Education

The goals of the NJYC grant program are as follows: to assist young adults, ages 16-25, who have dropped out of High School in improving their academic skills and general career knowledge; to engage youth in meaningful community service activities; and, to provide support services to youth in the areas of personal and career counseling and transition services to assist in their successful transition to college employment or further training. The purpose of the grant program with PACE is to assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency,

P-TECH Summer Bridge Program

Paterson P-TECH High School

The P-TECH Summer Bridge Program was a one-week program that enabled students to navigate a new campus, and become acclimated to academic and social expectations as a high school student.

School 16 Intervention and Enrichment Summer School Program

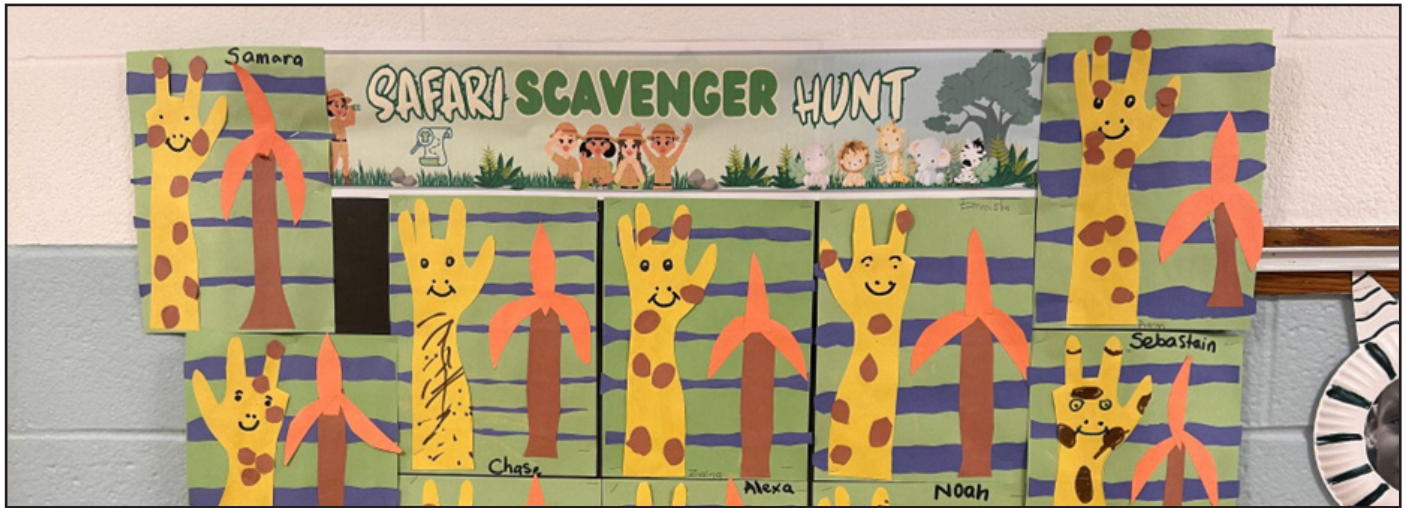
School 16

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade, the program focused on strengthening foundational skills in literacy and math while offering enriching, hands-on activities that make learning meaningful and joyful.

Paterson Division of Recreation Sports and Specialty Camps

Joseph A. Taub School, Maria Magda O'Keefe School, Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM CREATES A SENSORY SAFARI



This year’s Special Education Extended School Year program proudly kicked off with an exciting safari theme under the dedicated leadership of Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Services Ms. Cheryl Coy. The theme was designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and learning across all classrooms while providing a supportive and enriching summer experience for our students.

The program’s success is a result of the collaborative efforts of Interim Director Dr. Kaara Lydner, Director Keya Battiste-Romney, Director Candice Vargas, and our special education supervisors who worked tirelessly to ensure smooth operations including timely supply distribution and hiring the appropriate staff to meet student needs.

The safari was titled “A Sensory Safari Scavenger Hunt: Exploring the World, One Sense at a Time”. The young explorers journeyed through thrilling landscapes using their five senses to unlock wonders in the world around them. Guided by their motto—“Exploring the World, One Sense at a Time”—the group created, discovered, laughed, and learned with hands-on sensory play and themed scavenger hunts.

Our “Sensory Safari Scavenger Hunt” brought learning to life through hands-on activities, sensory exploration, engineering, and creativity, from wild animal visits to jungle crafts. The students were thrilled to be joined by two special safari guests—a cheerful giraffe and a playful monkey who made special appearances to encourage exploration and fun.

Using LEGO robotics, students designed and built jungle-inspired robots. These interactive creations helped us understand motion, energy, and creativity in the wild. Our future engineers built jungle trikes, monkey bots, and safari explorers. Students also explored the world through art and color as they created glove puppets shaped like chickens, paper parrots flying high in our classrooms, paper plate compasses guiding our path, and color-by-code lion art for visual learning fun.



SUMMER SELF-CARE INSPIRATION

“Sometimes the most productive thing you can do is to stop and relax.”

As we close out the 2024-2025 school year, the summer months – especially for educators – are a gentle reminder to slow down, soak in the sunshine, and care for your soul the way nature intended: warmly, freely and with joy. In this season of light, may we give ourselves permission to rest, reconnect with what matters most and rediscover the simple pleasures that nourish our hearts. Whether it’s a quiet moment in the shade, laughter with loved ones, or the peace found in an evening breeze, let this summer be your invitation to replenish, reflect, and rise renewed.

The Self-Care Calendar will also enjoy a summer vacation and will return in September. Attached please find some self-care ideas for the summer season – take a screenshot, save it to your phone, share it with your friends! How many can you accomplish?

Mantra for Summer: “I welcome the warmth of summer into my heart. I slow down, breathe deeply, and allow joy and rest to renew my spirit.”

For more ideas on how you can better support yourself and others, please reach out to Ms. Laurel Olson, Supervisor of Student Support Services, at lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us or ext. 10694.

Paterson Public Schools Summer Self-Care 2025

- Get Outside**
 Spending time in nature can reduce stress, boost mood, and improve overall well-being. A picnic is a relaxing way to enjoy a meal while basking in the summer sun.
- Get Your Hands Dirty**
 Gardening can be a therapeutic activity that connects you with nature and provides a sense of accomplishment. Whether you have a large garden or just a few pots on a balcony, tending to plants can be a meditative and rewarding experience. Plus, you will have fresh herbs, vegetables or flowers to enjoy at home.
- Dive into Water Activities**
 Swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, surfing and other water activities are not only fun, but also benefit your physical health.
- Cool Summer Treats**
 Beat the heat and focus on nutritious meals and snacks, especially fresh fruits and vegetables, which are abundant in summer.
- Summer Wellness & Hydration**
 Stay cool and healthy during these warm summer days. Remember to stay hydrated, protect yourself from the sun, and enjoy light, refreshing foods. Let's take care of ourselves while soaking up the sunshine.
- Set Your Sights on the Stars**
 Find a spot away from city lights, bring a blanket and lie back to watch the stars. Stargazing can be both awe-inspiring and relaxing.

SUPERINTENDENT’S INSTITUTE SET FOR AUGUST 19TH-21ST

Paterson Public Schools’ annual Superintendent’s Institute for district and school administrators will take place at International High School from August 19th through August 21st.

Led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, the institute is a collaborative effort that includes three days of impactful learning and essential information intended to support preparation for an excellent school year. The institute is designed to further Paterson Public Schools’ mission to accelerate achievement for all students by developing, implementing, and adjusting sound instructional practices and nurturing a culture of rapidly expanding capacity.

We wish all participants a successful and productive institute!

FOURTH-GRADERS' OPINIONS PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK TIMES



Fourth-grade students from Renaissance One School of Humanities recently experienced pride and joy as they saw their opinions published in the prestigious Sunday edition of the New York Times on Sunday, July 27th.

The unique experience started with a visit from New York Times staff members, who taught the students about journalism, and the differences between reported stories and opinion pieces. The fourth-graders were then assigned to write their own opinions. The opinion topics varied from the cost of books, taking better care of our environment, and giving kids Legos at a young age to spark creativity.

[Click here to read all of the students' opinions.](#)

MULTIPLE SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS PASS AP EXAM



The Eastside High School National Spanish Honor Society had 14 students pass the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture Exam, giving students the opportunity to earn college credit and skip intro-level courses at thousands of colleges and universities in the United States.

“Congratulations to all the students who passed the AP exam, and let’s continue celebrating their academic achievements with them!” said Eastside NSHS advisor and Spanish teacher Ms. Marbel Tamayo.

PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson Public Schools to Distribute 500 Free Uniform Vouchers Thanks to Donation from Kid City Stores
July 1, 2025

Paterson Expands Digital Literacy Support with Learning Ally Grant for 16 Schools
July 9, 2025

elektraLite Offers K-12 Theatrical Spaces The Perfect Combo Of Price And Performance
July 9, 2025

\$1M Contract for Paterson Eastside High School Bathroom Renovations Awarded
July 10, 2025

New Jersey Department of Education Awards Grants to Improve Student Literacy
July 16, 2025

Stop & Shop Donates \$7,500 to Support Food Pantry and Flu Clinics at Paterson's School 16
July 21, 2025

William Paterson University's Aspiring Educators program awarded \$583K grant to expand from summer to year-round
July 24, 2025

New York Times For Kids: Best Friends Forever!
July 27, 2025

Paterson Students Awarded Over \$25K in Scholarships at NJCDC's 11th Annual College Sendoff
August 4, 2025

Paterson Sees Steady Gains in Graduation Assessments and Multilingual Learner Progress, Officials Say
August 7, 2025

Paterson students make gains on NJ high school diploma tests
August 8, 2025

Paterson students receive \$25K in scholarships. Here's where they are headed.
August 11, 2025

IMPORTANT CALENDAR REMINDERS

August 19-21	Superintendent’s Institute
August 26-28	New Teacher Orientation
August 29	1 PM Dismissal (District)
September 1	Labor Day - District Closed
September 2-3	Full Day Staff Professional Development
September 4	First Day of School for Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd, at 90 Delaware Ave. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so in person and are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, September 10th. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply select your preferred language at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

The District Newsletter is a publication of the Department of Communications.

We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news.

Submit stories and photos by using our newly launched **Success Story Submissions** Google form. This form and our **Publicity Support Request** form can be found on our Communications page at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications
Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications
Aidan Solano | Graphics & Content Coordinator
Jeani Perez | Confidential Communications Assistant