

For Immediate Release

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Paterson Public Schools Announces Rescheduled Graduation Ceremony for June 26th

Ceremonies will honor students whose graduation was postponed due to extreme heat.

Paterson, NJ (June 24, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools has announced the official rescheduling of the high school graduation ceremony (Ceremony II) for students who were originally set to graduate during the afternoon of June 23rd. The new ceremony date is Thursday, June 26th, and it will take place at John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School in Paterson.

Students from P-TECH High School, Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts, STARS/T.I.E.S. Academy, and STEAM High School will graduate on Thursday at 5:00 pm at John F. Kennedy High School. Eastside High School will host its ceremony at 7:30 pm for its senior class.

“We are looking forward to Thursday’s ceremony and couldn’t be prouder of our graduates,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “After Monday’s ceremony was cut short due to the weather, it is important to us that every graduate has the opportunity to walk across the stage.”

“Planning a continuation of Monday’s event reflects our commitment to honoring student success,” said Board of Education President Eddie Gonzalez. “Our students worked hard to earn their diplomas, and they deserve to be celebrated. Thursday’s ceremonies will be a special occasion for students and their families.”

Due to extreme heat, and out of an abundance of caution for everyone in attendance, the June 23rd afternoon ceremony was shortened. In anticipation of high temperatures, the district implemented numerous precautionary measures to help keep everyone safe. These measures included on-site EMTs, cooling stations, cold bottled water, wet paper towels, ice, and on-site staff actively monitoring for signs of heat-related distress. Despite these efforts, the high temperatures led to discomfort and some attendees required medical attention. Emergency responders were immediately available and provided care.

"We understand the extreme heat at yesterday’s high school graduation ceremonies caused discomfort for our attendees and we regret that some became ill,” said Dr. Newell. “The original decision to hold Monday’s graduation at Hinchliffe Stadium was made well in advance, and with the goal of giving our students a meaningful and memorable send-off in a location that holds deep historical and cultural significance for the Paterson community. Thursday’s ceremony will bring our Class of 2025 celebrations to a meaningful close.”

Earlier that same day, the morning ceremony (Ceremony I) at historic Hinchliffe Stadium honored graduates from International High School and John F. Kennedy High School.

Both ceremonies on June 26th will also be streamed on the district's website at www.paterson.k12.nj.us for those who cannot attend in person. 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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