

Paterson Public Schools Celebrates the Class of 2025

High school seniors honored across two graduation ceremonies, including nine students who earned Associate degrees before high school graduation

Paterson, NJ (June 30, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2025. Over the course of two graduation ceremonies - held on June 23rd and June 26th – seniors from high schools across the district walked the stage, marking an important milestone in their educational journeys.

The district’s first ceremony (Ceremony I) took place at historic Hinchliffe Stadium on June 23rd, where seniors from International High School and John F. Kennedy High School were recognized. On June 26th, the district hosted Ceremony II at both John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School, celebrating seniors from P-TECH High School, Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts, STARS/T.I.E.S. Academy, STEAM High School, and Eastside High School.

Despite the challenges posed by the extreme heat on June 23rd, the district acted quickly to reschedule the second ceremony. The goal was simple but important: to ensure that every graduate had the opportunity to walk the stage and be celebrated for their hard work and perseverance.

“The Class of 2025 has shown what it means to stay focused and push through, even when faced with challenges,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “They’ve earned this moment, and we couldn’t be prouder of all they’ve accomplished. Whether heading to college, beginning a career, or pursuing other opportunities, these students represent the best of Paterson.” Paterson Public Schools also recognizes the dedication of its educators, whose guidance and support helped make these student successes possible.

Among this year’s standout academic leaders are the district’s valedictorians and salutatorians - students who earned top honors for their academic excellence and leadership, representing each of Paterson’s high schools:

Eastside High School

- Valedictorian: Mohamed Alsawaby
- Salutatorian: Miranda Rodriguez

International High School

- Valedictorian: Milka Baez
- Salutatorian: Jhostil Batista Gonzalez

John F. Kennedy High School

- Valedictorian: Elianny Polanco Soto
- Salutatorian: Marieliz Fabre Encarnacion

P-TECH High School

- Valedictorian: Jaidon Martinez
- Salutatorian: Joseph Mata

Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts

- Valedictorian: Carlauma McQueen
- Salutatorian: Ke'Mirah Frazier

STEAM High School

- Valedictorian: Sally Zakria
- Salutatorian: Jackelyn Java

STARS/T.I.E.S. Academy

- Valedictorian: Esther Ciprian
- Salutatorian: Imane Robinson

Their hard work and dedication have set an inspiring example for their classmates and the entire school community.

Another highlight of the year was the success of nine seniors who earned Associate degrees through the district's Early College Program, in partnership with Passaic County Community College. These students completed two years of college coursework while still in high school—graduating with both a high school diploma and a college degree in hand. Earning a college degree before finishing high school is no small feat. This achievement reflects not only their determination, but also the support of their families and the dedication of teachers and staff who supported them along the way.

This year's graduation season was a true community effort, reflecting the shared investment of teachers, administrators, families, and students. Their achievements deserve to be celebrated as each of them now steps into the next chapter of their lives—whether pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or exploring other opportunities.

For more information about Paterson Public Schools, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us.