



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

OCTOBER 2025 | VOL. 7

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Building for the Next Five Years and Beyond

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

With the approval on Wednesday of the [2025-2030 Strategic Plan](#), Paterson Public Schools is officially moving forward with a set of four vital goals that will bolster the mission and vision of our district.

The mission of our district is to nurture the holistic development of every student, equipping them with critical skills for future success and engaged citizenship. Our vision is to create a vibrant, inclusive school community where empowered students have diverse opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

Much work has been done to ensure the mission and vision serves as the guiding force. We've seen impressive accomplishments such as improved state test scores, decreased rates of chronic absenteeism, and students obtaining professional certificates while balancing a full academic course load. Now, coupled with the four goals outlined in the strategic plan, our work proceeds with an even more defined approach leading it as we continue to raise the level of expectation for student achievement.

Moving forward, as is the case with all of our initiatives across the district, data will be a driving force when it comes to evaluating the strategic plan's progress. The four goals that we've established in the strategic plan will be monitored using key performance indicators (KPIs). KPIs will measure these goals over the course of time to ensure that they will be properly gauged. Additionally, we will continue working with parents, families, and community organizations who helped shape this strategic plan. Your input is highly valued and I encourage all of you to remain involved as this collaborative effort continues.

I greatly look forward to seeing student success within Paterson Public Schools for the next five years and beyond!

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie W. Newell
Superintendent of Schools



[Read Press Release](#)

PPS REPRESENTED AT LEGISLATION SIGNING FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE EDUCATION



Paterson Public Schools Bilingual Department Supervisor Kat Esquiche and Board of Education President Eddie Gonzalez recently witnessed history as both were present at the Governor's Mansion in Drumthwacket when Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation requiring the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies, ensuring that the rich contributions, history, and heritage of Latino and Hispanic people are taught in K-12 schools.

Under the bill, a board of education is required to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the NJSL in Social Studies. The instruction is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, and developmentally appropriate.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PTO INVITES ALL TO BOE CANDIDATES NIGHT

ANNUAL DISTRICT WIDE PTO LEADERSHIP & PEF

PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION PARENT CANDIDATES NIGHT

**Tuesday
October 28, 2025**

IN PERSON ONLY :
John F. Kennedy High School
91-127 Preakness Avenue
Paterson NJ
From 6:00pm-8:30pm

Purpose of Candidates Night

- Meet Your Future Decision-Makers
- Ask, Listen, and Learn
- Understand the Power of the Board of Education
- Voice the Issues That Matter Most to parents
- Learn About the Election Process
- Build an Informed Parent Community

JFK STUDENT MEDIA CIVIC PROJECT PRODUCTION

For more information: [973-321-0883](tel:973-321-0883) - ptoleadership@patersonschools.org
Facebook: www.DistrictwidePTOLEADERSHIP.PPS

Paterson Public Schools PTO, in partnership with the Paterson Education Fund, is hosting its annual Paterson Board of Education Candidates Night on Tuesday, October 28th at John F. Kennedy High School.

This special civic event, where parents are able to meet Board of Education candidates and ask questions, will also give parents and families a chance to better understand the election process while also building an informed community. Candidates Night will also be streamed and produced by John F. Kennedy High School media students.

The district wide PTO and its leadership team oversees and supports all individual school PTOs, ensuring alignment with district goals, compliance with policies, and connection to Action Team for Partnership efforts. This structure builds a strong bridge between parents, schools, and the community to support academic success for all students.

For more information please call 973-321-0883, or reach out via email at ptoleadership@patersonschools.org. Be sure to follow the district's PTO on Facebook at facebook.com/DistrictWidePTO/.

DALE AVENUE SCHOOL CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Students and staff at Dale Avenue School came together recently to present a lively and inspiring program in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event showcased the rich cultural traditions, history, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities through performances, music, and student presentations.

The celebration featured colorful displays, traditional dances, and songs that reflected the pride and diversity of Hispanic heritage. Students shared facts, artwork, and short performances highlighting influential figures and the impact of Hispanic culture across the Americas.

The program brought together students from all grade levels (Pre-K through second), teachers, and families, fostering a spirit of unity and appreciation for cultural diversity. The school continues to emphasize inclusivity and respect through events like this that celebrate the backgrounds of all its students.

LANTERNS, MOONCAKES, AND LAUGHTER: MOON FESTIVAL AT INTERNATIONAL HS

International High School's International Club and Mrs. Hong Syz's Mandarin Chinese classes came together to host a joyful, school-wide celebration of the traditional and meaningful Moon Festival in the International High School library.

The Moon Festival, one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture, symbolizes family reunion, peace, and love. Students and staff enjoyed a variety of engaging activities, including a mooncake-making workshop, paper lantern crafting in bright, cheerful colors, joyful face painting, and a traditional costume showcase featuring Beijing Opera attire with flowing water sleeves.

During the event, students not only learned about the Moon Festival's cultural significance but also its themes of family, togetherness, and gratitude — similar to Thanksgiving in the United States. They also discovered connections with Diwali (Deepavali), the Indian Festival of Lights, celebrating the triumph of light over darkness and the power of hope and joy. The activities brought these traditions to life, making learning both fun and meaningful.



PARENT REMINDERS

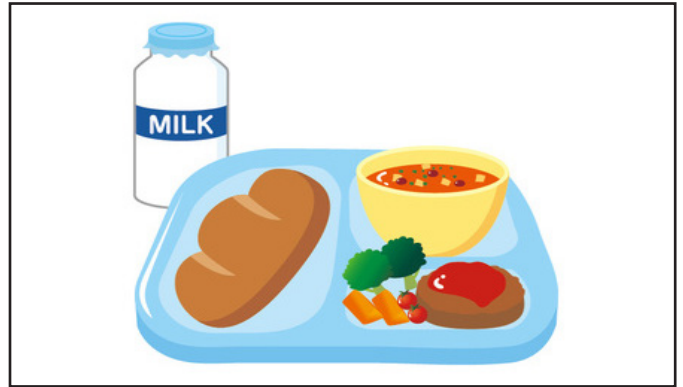
KEEP SHOWING UP! THE IMPORTANCE OF DAILY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At Paterson Public Schools, we believe that every day in school matters. Consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in helping your child succeed in school—and it all starts with being present, on time, and ready to learn. [Visit our website for more information about student attendance.](#)

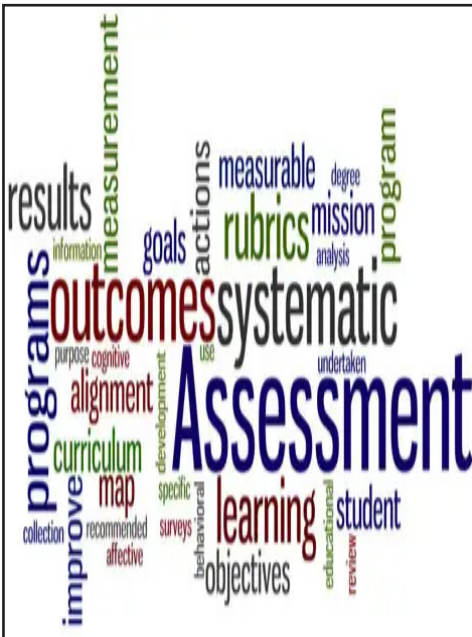


APPLY TODAY FOR SCHOOL MEALS EBT BENEFITS

Paterson Public Schools encourages families to see if they are eligible for School Meals EBT benefits! When students are fed, they'll have more focus and energy to learn. [Visit our website to apply for School Meals EBT Benefits.](#)



STAY UP TO DATE WITH STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS!



Paterson Public Schools would like to remind parents that the testing windows for key academic assessments will open in the coming weeks! This includes the following:

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

Grade Level Tested: 10th and 11th Grade

Testing Window: October 22, 2025

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Grade Level Tested: 12th Grade

Testing Window: October 22, 2025

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Adaptive (NJSLA-Adaptive) Field Test

Grade Level Tested: 4th through 12th Grade

Testing Window: October 27, 2025 - November 14, 2025

Division of Assessment, Planning & Evaluation is responsible for coordinating and implementing student assessment throughout the district. The division supports all levels of the organization to ensure that student achievement results are used to drive instructional decisions and improve learning opportunities for all students. For more information on the Division of Assessment, Planning & Evaluation and upcoming assessments, [please visit our website.](#)

STAFF REMINDERS

SUPPORT THE BUNDT CAKE FUNDRAISER!

The PPS Central Office Culture & Climate Committee is partnering with Nothing Bundt Cakes in support of the End of Year Barbecue! All proceeds from this fundraiser will help offset event costs and ensure a memorable celebration for all.

All orders and payments must be received by Friday, November 7, 2025. Orders will be ready for pick-up on Tuesday, November 25, 2025. [Click here to order.](#)



READ THE 2025-2026 PPS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK!

Paterson Public Schools' employee handbook for the 2025-2026 academic year is [now available to view on the district website.](#)

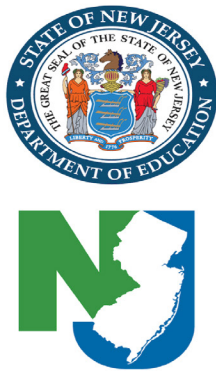
Employees are encouraged to keep this document handy as a reference guide as it answers many frequently asked questions about various topics.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION REMINDERS FROM THE NJDOE

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) reminds Paterson Public Schools and all places of learning that it's important to think ahead to the critical role our schools play in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and school communities.

The NJDOE urges schools to remain vigilant, informed, and proactive in supporting awareness and prevention efforts. [Click here for more information.](#)



**TEACH.
INSPIRE.**
NEW JERSEY.

SUPPORT OUR DISTRICT'S FALL SPORTS TEAMS!



With the Fall sports seasons winding down, now is the best time to support Paterson Public Schools' student-athletes! Click to see the Fall sports schedules for [Eastside High School](#) and [John F. Kennedy High School](#).

PPS ATHLETICS IN THE NEWS

[Caraballo's two goals lead Paterson Eastside over Newark Global Studies](#)
October 10, 2025

[Passaic tops Paterson Kennedy on PK's in Passaic County tourney quarter](#)
October 11, 2025

[Caraballo's Two Goals Power Eastside Past Newark Global Studies](#)
October 12, 2025

[Eastside Girls Soccer Tops Passaic Charter 4-1](#)
October 15, 2025

2025-2026 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Stay informed on district holidays, early dismissals, and more by visiting our website and viewing the [2025-2026 District Calendar](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, November 5th, 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, November 12th. 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 **Newsletter Submissions** form.

This form can be found on our Communications page at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Questions? Email us at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

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