PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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For Immediate Release

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Paterson Public Schools Enacts Emergency Food Drive for Families in Need

Donations intended for families whose SNAP benefits have been temporarily suspended due to the federal government shutdown

Paterson, NJ (November 4, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools has launched an emergency food drive to support district families affected by the temporary suspension of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) amid the ongoing federal government shutdown.

"At Paterson Public Schools, we are committed to ensuring that our students and their families do not go hungry during this difficult time," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "The generosity of those who can give will directly impact local families—especially those whose benefits have been disrupted."

Food will be collected at all schools and district-affiliated locations. Distribution of the food will take place at the Full Service Community Center (Madison K), located at 512 Market Street in Paterson, from 9 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday. Due to school closures, food will not be distributed on November 6, 7, 11, 27, and 28.

Paterson Public Schools welcomes donations from staff, community members, vendors, and local organizations. Non-perishable food items—including canned goods, rice, pasta, cereal, peanut butter, and shelf-stable milk—are especially needed to help sustain families during this emergency.

Those wishing to donate may call the district's office of Family and Community Engagement at 973-321-0879 to arrange delivery or pick-up. For updates and more information about the emergency food drive, please visit the Paterson Public Schools website.

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 22,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 71% of the student population is Hispanic, 16% are Black, 6% 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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