



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

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Office of the Superintendent

RE: 2026-2027 Phase 3 - School Year Transition to Elementary and Middle School Cohorts

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of the Paterson Public Schools Community,

At Paterson Public Schools, our primary mission is to provide every student with an exceptional education that prepares them for success in an ever-changing world. To ensure we meet this goal equitably and sustainably, the Board of Education has carefully reviewed our elementary programs and long-term plans.

As part of the continuation of the redistricting of our Elementary schools to a Middle School Cohort, Choice Schools programs will be phased out by **June 30, 2026**, in alignment with the Long-Range Facilities Plan. Those sites will be repurposed for future use based on the Long-Range Facilities plan.

Students enrolled in Alexander Hamilton Academy, Renaissance School 1, Norman S. Weir, and Young Men's Leadership Academy will return to their designated neighborhood schools, **September 1, 2026**. Additionally, School 10, School 18, School 21 and School 26 will be reconfigured as follows:

School	Current Configuration	New configuration (as of September 1, 2026)
10	K-8	K-5
18	K-8	K-5
26	K-8	PreK-5 (Incorporates School 1)
21	K-8	Middle School (6-8)

This transition will be a continuation to:

- Ensure equitable access to high-quality programs across all neighborhood schools
- Improve operational sustainability and efficiency
- Strengthening school communities by educating students closer to home

What this means for families:

- All students affected by the Phase 3 reconfiguration will be required to re-register for the 2026-2027 school year. This will ensure that all students are placed in their correct neighborhood school
- Families will receive individualized support as needed

We invite families to attend upcoming Community Forums to learn more and ask questions. Dates will be forthcoming.

We recognize that change can be challenging, but we believe this transition will strengthen our district and ensure every Paterson student has access to a high-quality school in their own community. Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools