



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Office of the Superintendent of Schools
90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503
Office: (973) 321-0980 Fax: (973) 321-0470

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

February 10, 2026

Dear Paterson Public Schools Community,

Recently, our community has felt the weight of heightened concerns regarding the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in our area. I am writing to reaffirm that our district's top priority is to ensure our schools remain a safe, supportive and welcoming environment for every student, regardless of immigration status.

Our district policy remains firm: we do not permit federal agents on campus without a judicial warrant signed by a judge. We do not collect or share information regarding the immigration status of our students.

In anticipation of potential student-led civic actions or walkouts, we want to reaffirm our commitment to student safety and academic continuity. As an educational institution, we value the First Amendment and the passion our students show for justice. However, we must balance this with our responsibility for student safety and academic continuity. We respect and applaud our students' right to peaceful assembly and their desire to advocate for your peers and families, as we wholeheartedly believe that their voice matters. Our priority is to maintain safety and security for our students, while allowing them to exercise their rights.

We know that the current climate creates stress and anxiety for many of our students and families. Please refer to the [Information on Immigration for Parents and Schools](#) page on the district's website. This webpage provides information on family preparedness, community resources, and guidance; these resources have been made available to students and families since January of 2025 to help navigate the complex challenges surrounding immigration. We also encourage parents and guardians to reach out if they need support in navigating these concerns.

We value every member of our community, and we are here to ensure that our students and families feel safe, supported, and respected. We will continue to assess and update the community as needed.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools