



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

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PPS STUDENTS COME TOGETHER FOR DENTAL SMILE DAY



Paterson Public Schools' Office of Dental Services brought bright smiles to the Madison K Full Service Community Center this past Monday for Dental Smile Day. During the event, Paterson STEAM High School dental arts students took the lead, assisting with screenings and providing oral health tips to their peers from the Young Men's Leadership Academy. The event coincides with February being Children's Dental Health Month.

The goal of the event was to improve the oral health of Paterson's children by increasing their access to preventive oral health services and integrating early oral health as the medical standard of care.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Report Card Parent Conferences are taking place at schools across the district this week, providing an important opportunity for families and teachers to discuss students' strengths, challenges, and next steps for success. The conversations focus on four key areas that support student growth and achievement:

Academic Progress – With two marking periods of data to assess and analyze, teachers are sharing where students currently stand academically and providing parents with meaningful insights to support continued learning at home.

Preparations for the New Jersey State Learning Assessment (NJSLA) – Following last month's principals meeting, where school leaders were presented with the district's NJSLA: Road to Success, schools are sharing practical strategies families can implement at home to help prepare their child for the NJSLA exams in April.

Attendance Update – In addition to the periodic letters families receive from schools, parents are being provided with a complete overview of their student's attendance record. These conversations reinforce the importance of daily attendance and highlight how being present positively impacts students academically, socially, and emotionally.

Social and Emotional Well-Being – Families are also receiving important updates on their child's social and emotional development, classroom behavior, and overall growth as individuals.

While Report Card Parent Conferences provide critical, up-to-date information on student progress, Paterson Public Schools encourages families to continue to be a part of their child's academic journey year-round. Family involvement strengthens academic habits, increases student motivation, and builds stronger relationships between families and teachers. We are stronger together, and by working hand-in-hand, we ensure the greatest success for every child.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION FOR PARENTS AND SCHOOLS

Paterson Public Schools has always been a place where students from all backgrounds feel welcome and valued. The district believes that every child deserves a safe and supportive learning environment where they can thrive, regardless of their immigration status. We are actively working to provide resources and support to any families who may be affected by the current climate.

To learn about the latest information on immigration resources, including communications from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, please visit the Information on Immigration for Parents and Schools page on our [website](#).

Please see [press coverage](#) related to the district's efforts.

PPS CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS WEEK



Paterson Public Schools celebrated its dedicated school counselors last week as part of National School Counselors Week (NSCW), which honors school counselors for their vital role in fostering academic, social, and emotional success in students. The week culminated with a festive luncheon that took place at Central Office on February 6. School counselors and student assistance coordinators came together to celebrate NSCW and share how they amplify student services in their schools.

“NSCW provided an opportunity to highlight the services and important work that our school counselors and student assistance coordinators put forth every day in their school buildings,” said Director of Guidance & Counseling K-12 Tamisha McKoy. “This week also highlighted our school counselors as the ultimate resource for students, empowering them to amplify their success in every area of life.”



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE HOSTS INFORMATIVE WORKSHOP AT SCHOOL 20



Paterson Public Schools' Department of Compulsory School Attendance and Student Accounting (CSASA) hosted an enlightening workshop for families at School 20 called "Let's Build Great Routines!" The workshop focused on improving student attendance by establishing consistent routines starting at home.

The session emphasized the importance of daily attendance and its impact on student success. Families were provided practical tips and strategies to support positive attendance outcomes, including guidance on creating effective morning routines. The workshop encouraged collaboration between school and home to build strong habits that promote regular, on-time attendance. CSASA will be visiting schools throughout the school year as it continues to inform parents about the importance of their child's attendance.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIAN AND JFK ALUM SPEAKS AT ALMA MATER



John F. Kennedy High School alumnus Jimmy Richardson recently returned to his alma mater as a guest speaker for the school's annual Black History Month celebration. Mr. Richardson is a public historian who lectures locally and nationally on African American history and the African American experience in the city of Paterson. Mr. Richardson's informative presentation on Black history in Paterson was part of JFK's Black history lecture series.

SCHOOL 27 CELEBRATES NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

Students and staff at School 27 celebrated National Wear Red Day, an awareness initiative by the American Heart Association to combat cardiovascular disease. Young learners learned about how making healthy food choices, exercising, and drinking plenty of water helps prevent heart disease.



NORMAN S. WEIR SCHOOL PRESENTED PROMISING STEM INNOVATION AWARD

Norman S. Weir School has received a \$1,000 Promising STEM Innovation Award for its submission into the 2025-2026 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. The innovative ideas and commitment to solving real-world problems presented by Norm S. Weir's students made a lasting impression on the judges. The annual STEM-based educational initiative is designed to foster innovative solutions for local and global challenges.

NORMAN S. WEIR



CAN'T HIDE THAT TIGER PRIDE



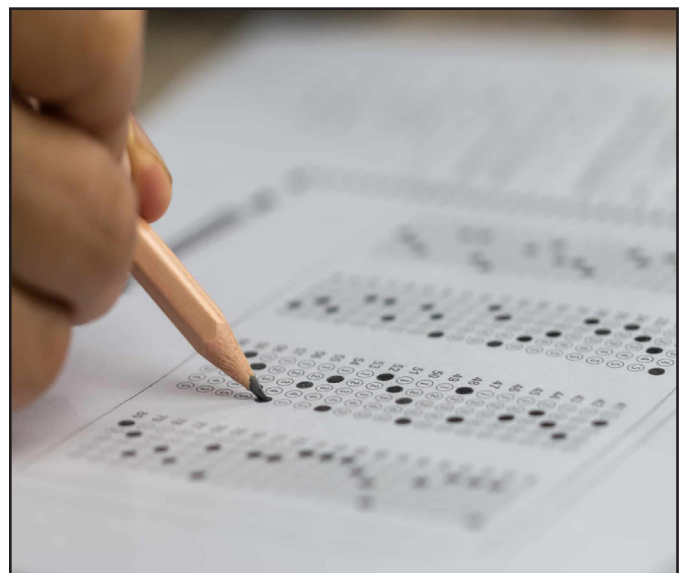
**SAMSUNG
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FOR TOMORROW®**

STAFF REMINDER

UPDATED DISTRICT AND STATE ASSESSMENT CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

Paterson Public Schools' Division of Assessment, Planning and Evaluation has provided updated district and state assessment calendars. The calendars offer dates for all district and state assessments, as well as relevant information regarding testing subjects and content. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

The Division of Assessment, Planning and Evaluation is responsible for coordinating and implementing student assessment throughout the district. The Division works to ensure that student achievement results are used to drive instructional decisions and improve learning opportunities for all students.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

February 12 Report Card Parent Conferences
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (Grades PreK-8)
February 13 1 PM Student/1:20 PM Staff Dismissal
February 16-17 Winter Break - District Closed

[Full 2025-2026 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, 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, March 11th. 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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