

YES PROGRAM CONCLUDES SCHOOL YEAR WITH INSPIRING SHOWCASE



Paterson Public Schools' Youth Empowered Stewardship (YES) Program hosted a reflective and impactful culminating event on Monday, June 1 at School 16 to celebrate the conclusion of the 2025-2026 academic year. The showcase featured end-of-year activities and presentations highlighting the accomplishments, growth, and community impact achieved by students throughout the school year.

"The YES Program showcases the extraordinary capacity of our student leaders to drive meaningful culture shifts within our schools," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "These students are proving that their voices are vital tools for building a more equitable district. Their work serves as a powerful reminder that when we listen to our youth, we build stronger communities."

During the showcase, student leaders and their advisors presented their projects, which included a pilot of the upcoming cell phone ban, a farm-to-table project to address food deserts and sustainability, entrepreneurship and financial literacy, an award-winning anti-vaping public service announcement, school culture, and chronic absenteeism.

To read the press release, please visit our [website](#).

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

As graduation season approaches, excitement is building across our district. We are pleased to share important updates regarding our June 26 commencement ceremonies as we prepare to celebrate the Class of 2026 at Hinchliffe Stadium.

Graduation is a monumental achievement, marking the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and resilience. I also want to take a moment to celebrate a truly historic milestone: the graduation of Newcomers High School's first-ever senior class. As trailblazers, these students have helped establish traditions that will inspire future generations. Congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment and for making history.



As we enter the final weeks of the school year, I encourage all students to stay focused, finish strong, and continue striving toward their goals. The accomplishments we celebrate today are reminders of what can be achieved through commitment and perseverance.

To help families prepare for graduation day, the district has launched its [2026 High School Graduation webpage](#). This page includes important ceremony information, event details, and livestream access for those unable to attend in person. I encourage families to visit the graduation page and review the available resources.

Additionally, I want to congratulate our outstanding eighth-grade students who are participating in this year's Moving Up Ceremonies. This achievement represents both the culmination of your hard work and the beginning of an exciting new chapter. I invite our school community to join us in celebrating these students by viewing this [special video message](#).

To all members of the Class of 2026 and our rising high school students, congratulations on reaching these important milestones. We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to celebrating with you and your families in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



DISTRICT HONORS 45 PARENTS AT ANNUAL FAMILY BREAKFAST

Paterson Public Schools recognized 45 outstanding parents from schools across the district during its annual Title I End-of-Year Family Breakfast Conference on June 6 at Eastside High School, celebrating the critical role families play in student achievement and school success.

The event brought together parents, educators, administrators, Superintendent's Cabinet members, Board of Education Commissioners, and community leaders for a morning dedicated to recognizing the exceptional contributions families make to the educational journey of Paterson students.

"Family engagement remains one of the strongest predictors of student success," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "This annual celebration gives us an opportunity to recognize the parents who partner with our schools every day to support learning, encourage achievement, and help shape the future of our students."

To read the press release, please visit our [website](#).



LEADERSHIP HUDDLES FOR ANNUAL BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

The Paterson Board of Education, joined by Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, convened on Wednesday, June 3 at Central Office for the annual board retreat. As the academic year concludes, district leadership engaged in critical strategic discussions to shape the future of the district.

Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services/Special Programs Joanna Tsimpedes and Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Services Cheryl D. Coy delivered comprehensive presentations outlining vital advancements in academic programming and specialized services for the upcoming school year. Through collaboration and data-driven planning, the retreat successfully established a clear framework to maximize student achievement and operational excellence in the year ahead.



From left to right: Commissioner Valerie Freeman, Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Board President Joel D. Ramirez, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Commissioner Alex Mendez, Jr., Commissioner Kenneth Rosado, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson. Also in attendance joining virtually was Board Vice President Della McCall, Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid, and Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons.

NRC CLAIMS MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

New Roberto Clemente School emerged victorious as the Paterson Public Schools Middle School Debate champions in an exciting and highly competitive tournament against Dr. Hani Awadallah School and Joseph A. Taub School.

Students demonstrated exceptional critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork while debating two challenging topics:

Topic 1: Should local governments invest more in parks and recreation centers?

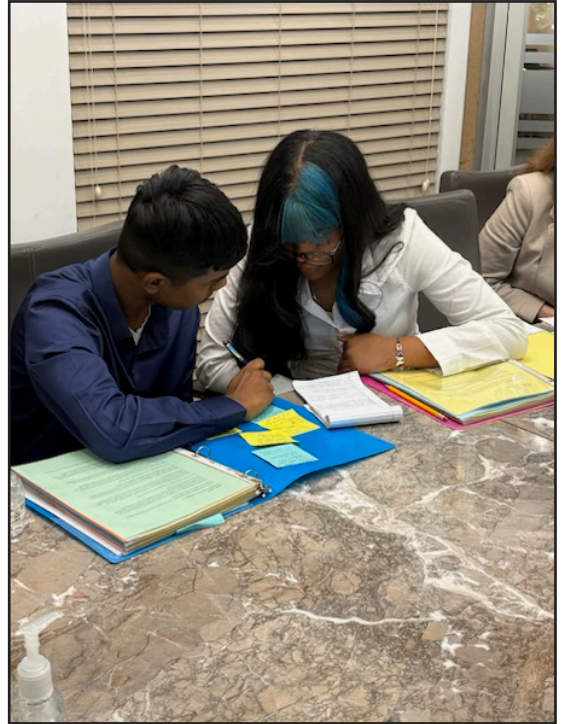
Topic 2: Should the popular vote replace the Electoral College?

Throughout the competition, students engaged in spirited exchanges of ideas, presenting well-researched arguments and thoughtful rebuttals. The debates were closely contested, with each team showcasing impressive preparation and determination. After a series of intense rounds and careful deliberation by the judges, the competition remained so close that the judges were asked to take a second look at the final results.

Following further review, New Roberto Clemente School was declared the overall champion and proudly brought home the trophy. The victory reflected the students' persistence, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Their ability to defend their positions, respond under pressure, and work together as a team proved to be the difference in a hard-fought competition.

Congratulations to all participating students from New Roberto Clemente School, Dr. Hani Awadallah School, and Joseph A. Taub School for their outstanding performances. Special recognition also goes to the coaches whose guidance, encouragement, and preparation helped make this event a success. The championship serves as a reminder that hard work, perseverance, and respectful discourse can lead to remarkable achievements.

New Roberto Clemente School celebrates this well-earned victory and looks forward to future academic competitions. Congratulations to all the students and coaches involved. Their dedication made the event a memorable success. Hats off to Elaine, Sarai, Chrismell, Abid, and Saraiudos and kudos to their coaches, Mrs. Abaza and Mr. Ramos.



FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET: NEWCOMERS' FIRST-EVER SENIORS!

What a remarkable journey it has been for the first-ever graduating senior class from Newcomers High School! The school year was filled with unforgettable milestones, new traditions, and memories that will last a lifetime.

The seniors began the year together at their Senior Sunrise, welcoming a year full of possibilities. They celebrated friendships and achievements at Prom, honored excellence during our Awards Ceremony, and closed this historic chapter with a beautiful Senior Sunset, reflecting on how far we've come.

As pioneers of our senior class, these students have helped shape traditions that future generations will cherish. Their leadership, resilience, and school spirit have left a lasting legacy.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026—thank you for making history and showing us what it means to finish strong. Your story may have started with a sunrise, but it is only the beginning of the bright future ahead.



EDWARD W. KILPATRICK SCHOOL CELEBRATES CAREER WEEK



Edward W. Kilpatrick School's Career Week was a successful initiative designed to expose students to a variety of career paths and inspire them to think about their future goals. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to learn directly from professionals representing a wide range of fields.

Through collaboration with community partners, the school welcomed guest speakers such as veterinarians, police officers, firefighters, nurses, dental hygienists, and other professionals who shared their experiences, discussed their career journeys, and answered students' questions. These presentations provided students with valuable real-world insight into different occupations and the education and skills required for each profession.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the week was seeing students become excited about their futures. Many eagerly participated in discussions, asked thoughtful questions, and began imagining themselves in these careers one day. Watching their curiosity grow and seeing them realize that their dreams are achievable made the experience especially meaningful.

Overall, Career Week was a memorable and impactful event that promoted career awareness, strengthened community partnerships, and encouraged students to dream big about the possibilities that await them in the future. The smiles, excitement, and engagement from the students throughout the week made it clear that the experience left a lasting impression.

JFK STUDENTS BRING DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO LIFE

In a powerful fusion of history, citizenship, and the arts, students from John F. Kennedy High School recently recorded a dramatic, collaborative reading of the United States Declaration of Independence. The video project, fully produced and performed by the student body, was created with the intent to be distributed districtwide ahead of this year's 250th Independence Day.

To watch this powerful recitation of the Declaration of Independence, [click here](#).

The initiative, spearheaded by one of the school's history teachers, Tara Fueshko, features a diverse group of 13 students, each delivering a distinct section of the historic document written in 1776. By assigning different voices to the text, the project aims to reflect the modern diversity of the American promise while honoring the foundational words that shaped the nation.

Students from various backgrounds and grade levels participated, symbolizing unity and a shared civic identity. The students involved in delivering the text of the document were Geraldine Bastidas, Juandry Duran, Aurielle Henry, Lynai Jenkins, Sha'Ki Kelly, Anthony Lewis, Victoria Ortez, Rafan Rahman, Giovanni Ramirez, Alexander Rodriguez, Yuniesky Torres, Kayla Wimberly, and Angelina Zuniga.

In addition to the voice talent, JFK High School audio tech and cast students handled the recording, editing, and scoring by utilizing the school's state-of-the-art studio. Overseen by teachers Lynn Hazelman, Richard Solis, and Thomas Springsteen, the students involved included Esmerlin Devers Polanco, Randoth Drusky, Iyonna Gildon, Darlin Lantigua, Jacqueline Martinez, and Crismely Rodriguez Gil.



NRC AMBASSADORS AND EASTSIDE AMBASSADORS IN ONE ROOM



On June 3, New Roberto Clemente School 8th grade students attending Eastside High School next year heard real life, personal stories from the Eastside Ambassadors. EHS Ambassadors stepped to the microphone with courage and were an inspiration, reminding us of our upbringings and the true value of education as children of immigrant parents.

Eastside's Full-Service Site Coordinator Ms. Nicole Sweeney, along with NRC School Counselors, cohosted the event. EHS Ambassadors motivated NRC students to reflect on the goals they'll have going into their time at Eastside and reminded them of the different pathways, clubs, sports, climate, and diverse culture that awaits them. NRC Ambassadors have been busy with school-wide events and were inspired to witness school pride at a high school level.

MLK WINS FIRST PLACE IN ANTI-DRUG MIDDLE SCHOOL PSA CONTEST

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex Student Activities Coordinator Mr. Alvin Bush and his group of 8th graders took first place in the Drug Free NJ Middle School PSA Contest. To watch this award-winning video created by MLK students, [click here](#).

All submissions were judged by a panel on creativity and message content. Beating out other school submissions from across the state, their anti-vaping and fentanyl awareness message was chosen to represent the tri-state area.

Their winning PSA will be distributed across the tri-state area and featured in the social media and peer-to-peer substance use messaging for “Partnership for a Drug Free NJ.” Additionally, students received a \$200 Amazon card and a certificate for their winning efforts.

Congratulations to Mr. Bush and his students for using creativity, collaboration, and student voice to make a meaningful difference in substance use prevention across New Jersey and beyond. As the saying goes, “the voices of young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow—they are the change-makers of today.”



STEAM WINS NORTH JERSEY UNIFIED BOCCE BALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Paterson STEAM High School captured its second championship of the year by taking first place at the Second Annual North Jersey Unified Bocce Ball Championships on June 8. Held at North Arlington High School, the victory capped an incredible inaugural season for STEAM High School as they competed as a Unified Champion School for the first time. The winning team, composed of students from both STEAM High School and STARS Academy, was coached by Patricia Spiliotopoulos, Timothy Raimondo, and Fernando Martinez Encinas. This caps a tremendous first year of unified programming at STEAM.

FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: FAMILY WELLNESS EVENT

At School 5's Family Wellness Event, an AmeriCorps volunteer, families, a lunch monitor, and a fellow Full Service Community School Site Coordinator came together to learn Bachata. The dance was taught by School 5's very own FSCS Site Coordinator Angely, who generously shared her time and talent with the school community.

Full Service is about more than programs and services. It's about building relationships, creating connections, and bringing people together. When staff, students, families, volunteers, and community partners share their gifts and show up for one another, they help create a school community where everyone belongs. That's the heart of Full Service Community Schools.

NRC STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE IN 299 "ALL ABOARD" WRITING CONTEST

New Roberto Clemente School student Braylin Cartagena Maria was awarded first prize in the Paterson 299 "All Aboard" Train Contest, sponsored by the Paterson Library Foundation. Students were challenged to research and write about the importance of Old 299 and its impact on the City of Paterson.

Among the many submissions received from Paterson Public Schools students in grades K-8, Braylin's essay stood out for its thoughtful reflection and strong understanding of local history. An excerpt from Braylin's winning essay reads: "History is important because it helps people know about their town's roots. Wherever you live, my advice is to research what makes your hometown special. Old 299 is special because it was the star of the locomotive manufacturing industry in Paterson. It was so impactful that other communities wanted it to be part of their museums, but Paterson was fortunate enough to bring it home. Old 299 had a great effect on Paterson's history and remains a star today."

Braylin was encouraged to participate by Ms. Silvia Gallagher, Reading Specialist, who is passionate about providing students with opportunities to showcase their writing talents. His essay is currently on display at the Paterson Museum.

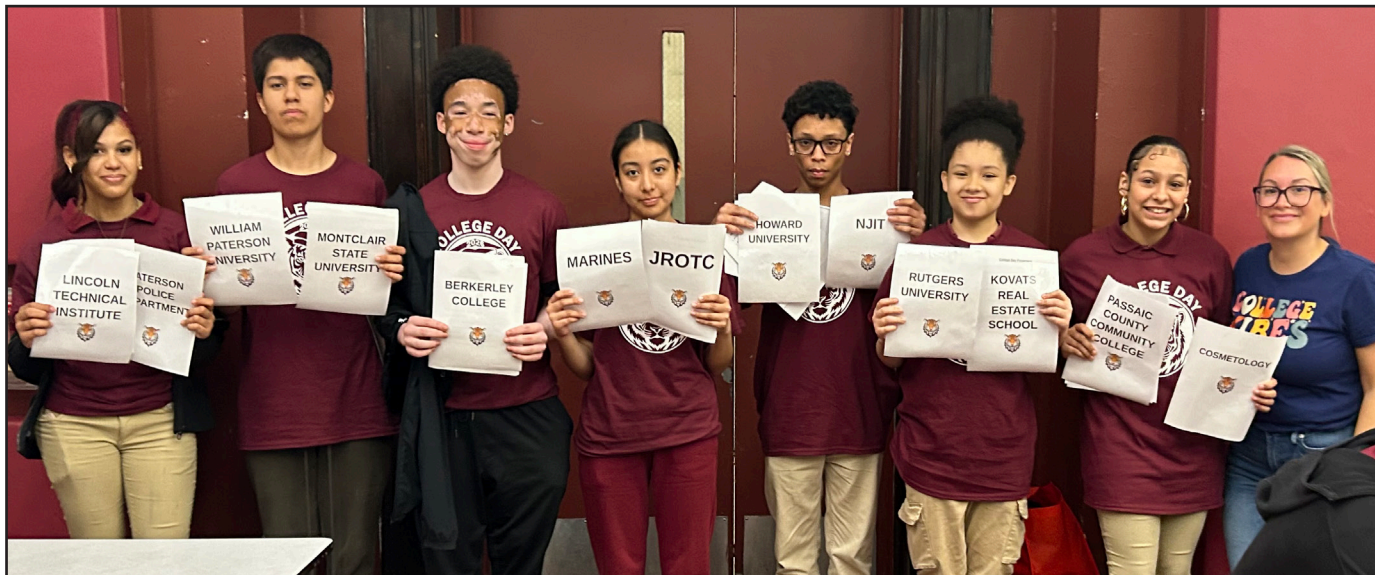
"I love a good writing contest, so I always encourage students to participate," shared Mrs. Gallagher. "This contest was particularly special because it challenged students to dig deep into Paterson's rich history while fostering a greater sense of pride in this community. Braylin's success is a wonderful example of what can happen when students connect their learning to the place they call home."

Congratulations to Braylin on this outstanding achievement and for representing New Roberto Clemente School with excellence!

1ST PLACE IN THE PATERSON LIBRARY FOUNDATION TRAIN ESSAY CONTEST



MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE DAY AT SCHOOL 12



On May 27, School 12 hosted a Middle School College Day, welcoming 20 higher education and professional representatives who shared their time and expertise with students.

Participating organizations included William Paterson University, Berkeley College, Montclair State University, Rutgers University, Howard University, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Passaic County Community College (PCCC), the Paterson Police Department, the United States Marines, Eastside High School JROTC, Eastside High School cosmetology program, Lincoln Technical Institute, and Kovats Real Estate & Insurance School.

The day began with breakfast for presenters and parents from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., followed by a general welcome session attended by staff, students, parents, and guests. After the welcome, members of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) escorted presenters to their assigned classrooms, where they shared valuable information with students. Presenters provided students with valuable information about their schools, programs, and career pathways, helping them gain a clearer understanding of the educational opportunities available to them and inspiring them to think more intentionally about their future goals.

At noon, students returned to their homeroom classes while presenters enjoyed a catered lunch. During lunch, Principal Dr. Boblyn Dobbs expressed her gratitude to the guests for taking time out of their busy schedules to invest in our students' lives. College Day was an overwhelming success, providing students with meaningful exposure to higher education, career training programs, military service opportunities, and professional career paths. The enthusiasm and engagement displayed by both students and presenters made the event a memorable and impactful experience for all involved.



SFLS CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER WITH NY COSMOS

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School (SFLS) proudly hosted its first fundraiser in partnership with the NY Cosmos soccer team at historic Hinchliffe Stadium. The event brought together students, families, staff, and community members for an exciting evening of school spirit, entertainment, and celebration.

A highlight of the night was the performance by the Stallion Drumline during halftime, led by music teacher Ms. Marston. Their energetic and talented performance showcased the dedication and pride of SFLS student musicians and brought excitement to the crowd. The evening was especially meaningful as the game also served as the NY Cosmos' School Night and Teacher Appreciation Match. During halftime, several of our outstanding educators were recognized for their commitment to students and the community. Ms. Marston, Ms. Royster, and Ms. Turner were honored as Community Champions by WellPoint for their dedication, service, and positive impact both inside and outside the classroom.

SFLS is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the NY Cosmos organization and celebrate the incredible work of their students and staff. Events like these continue to strengthen school-community connections and create memorable experiences for the Stallion family.



MORE THAN A PERFORMANCE: CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

For the third year in a row, the Full Service Community School Coordinator at School 2 organized and planned a special trip for family members to experience a truly unforgettable moment – watching their children perform with the American Young Voices Choir at the Prudential Center.

By creating space for parents and loved ones to attend, the coordinator ensured that families could share in the excitement, pride, and joy of seeing their children shine on one of the biggest stages of their young lives.

There is something powerful about looking into the crowd and seeing the faces of the people who support you most. For the students, knowing their families were there cheering them on made the experience even more meaningful. For parents, it was an opportunity to witness their children’s hard work, talent, and confidence come to life in an extraordinary way.

Beyond the performance itself, the trip created opportunities for families to connect, celebrate together, and build lasting memories. These shared experiences strengthen the bonds between home and school and remind our students that they are surrounded by a community that believes in them.

This is family engagement at its best – creating meaningful opportunities for families to be present, connected, and be a part of their children’s journey.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[@PatersonPublicSchools](#)



[@paterson_public_schools_nj](#)



[@paterson-public-schools](#)



[@Paterson_Public](#)

MEDAL RAIN FOR EASTSIDE: NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM WINNERS HONORED



Paterson Public Schools achieved a historic milestone as 37 students from Eastside High School were honored at City Hall on June 4 for their outstanding performance on the National Spanish Examination (NSE), securing an impressive sweep of 12 gold, 10 silver, and 7 bronze medals, along with 8 honorable mentions.

Hosted by Fifth Ward Councilman Luis Vélez and Paterson Board of Education President Joel Ramírez, the ceremony served to present official certificates of recognition and emphasize the critical role of bilingual education in developing future global leaders. The event highlighted the extraordinary impact of the school's faculty, featuring student-led tributes to lead advisor Ms. Tamayo for her 12-year legacy of test preparation, alongside key recognition for Spanish teachers Idalia Sánchez and Gladis Flores. This major academic triumph, which concluded with an enthusiastic community reception and a celebratory food party back at the school, underscores the immense power of shared dedication between public school classrooms, supportive families, and municipal leadership.

PPS IN THE NEWS

[Eastside High School Students Earn 37 National Awards on National Spanish Exam](#)
June 12, 2026

[198 Paterson Seniors Earn New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy](#)
June 6, 2026

PRESS RELEASES

[Paterson Public Schools Honors 45 Parents at Annual Family Breakfast Conference](#)
June 12, 2026

[YES Program Concludes 2025-2026 School Year with Inspiring Showcase](#)
June 11, 2026

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

June 12	4th Marking Period Ends
June 19	Juneteenth - District Closed
June 26	Last Day for Students
June 26	High School Graduation Day
June 29	Last Day for Staff (9 AM - 12 PM)

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, June 17th at John F. Kennedy High School. 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.

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply select your preferred language at [pps.eduision.tv/LiveEvents](https://ppseduision.tv/LiveEvents).

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della McCall, Commissioner Valerie Freeman, Commissioner Alex Mendez, Jr., Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid, Commissioner Kenneth Rosado, Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons, Commissioner Corey L. Teague

The Pulse 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 the Communications Hub at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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

Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications

Jeani Perez | Confidential Communications Assistant

Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications

Aidan Solano | Graphics and Content Coordinator