



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

AUGUST 27, 2026 | VOL. 1

SUPERINTENDENT'S INSTITUTE FOCUSES ON TURNING DATA INTO ACTION

Paterson Public Schools prepared for the upcoming school year during the annual Superintendent's Institute, an intensive three-day program that took place at International High School from August 18-20.

The Institute brought school administrators and leaders together to learn, collaborate, reflect, and examine data as they continue working to strengthen schools and improve outcomes for every student.

"The positive momentum and the trajectory of our district is undeniable because the data says we're on the right path," said Deputy Superintendent Rodney A. Henderson. "However, we still have work to do. Let's continue to support the teachers who stand in front of our classrooms every single day so that they can provide the very best education to every student in our district."



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year. Each new school year brings renewed energy, fresh opportunities, and a shared commitment to ensuring that every child in our district is prepared for success in school and in life.

As we begin the year, our focus remains clear: to provide every student with a high-quality, equitable education in an environment that supports their academic, social, and emotional growth.

I am excited to welcome our students back and I look forward to another year of learning, growth, and achievement. I deeply value the partnership of our families, the dedication of our staff, and the support of our community partners. Together, we will continue building a district where every child can thrive. I wish everyone a joyful, safe, and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION WELCOMES EDUCATORS TO THE DISTRICT



Paterson Public Schools welcomed new educators to the district this week for its two-day New Teacher Orientation, held August 25–26 at Central Office building. The orientation was designed to help new teachers begin the school year with the knowledge, resources, and support they need to get off to a strong start.

The program opened with welcome remarks from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rodney Henderson, along with greetings from Board of Education President Joel Ramirez and Vice President Della Wilder. The institute also featured presentations from several assistant superintendents, including Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services/Special Programs Joanna Tsimpedes and Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Services Cheryl D. Coy.

Throughout the orientation, new teachers participated in sessions covering key district systems, services, and expectations. Topics included technology support, Human Resource services, an introduction to Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB), and training on Infinite Campus. Teachers also took part in content-area breakout sessions with supervisors.



PRINCIPALS PREPARE FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH PD SERIES

This summer, Paterson Public Schools' school leadership, cabinet members, administrators, and Central Office staff came together for the "Things All Principals Need to Know" professional development series.

The engaging sessions, which took place on July 8th and July 22nd, provided school leaders with updates, resources, and insights from Central Office staff. Participants had opportunities to ask questions, explore new resources and gain information to support effective school leadership and student success.



SFLS COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

The Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School community came together recently to help students start the new school year prepared and ready to learn.

Thanks to the generosity of valued community partner Costco, students and families received bookbags and essential school supplies during a special giveaway at SFLS. The initiative was spearheaded by Director of School Safety Dalton Price and Principal Dr. Sherri Brackett, with Assistant Superintendent Nahed Badawy and SFLS staff helping distribute supplies to members of the school community.





High School Summer School Program - International High School

The High School Summer School Program offered critical assistance for high school students who needed to recover credits and stay on track to graduate.

Summer Youth Career Immersion Program - Berkeley College

Paterson Public Schools high school students explored careers, built leadership skills, and gained hands-on experiences through Berkeley College's free Summer Youth Career Immersion Program.

Summer Lit Camp - School 5, School 13, Maria Magda O'Keefe School, School 25, Roberto Clemente School

Students in kindergarten through 5th grade kept their literacy skills sharp at five district schools.

Write on Sports, Write on Arts - Montclair State University

Middle school students immersed themselves in creative writing through sports and the arts on a college campus.

PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson Students Celebrated at 12th Annual College Sendoff With Scholarships, Full-Tuition Awards

TAPinto Paterson | August 9, 2026

Paterson P-TECH, Community Partners Honored with State STEM Collaboration of the Year Award

TAPinto Paterson | July 19, 2026

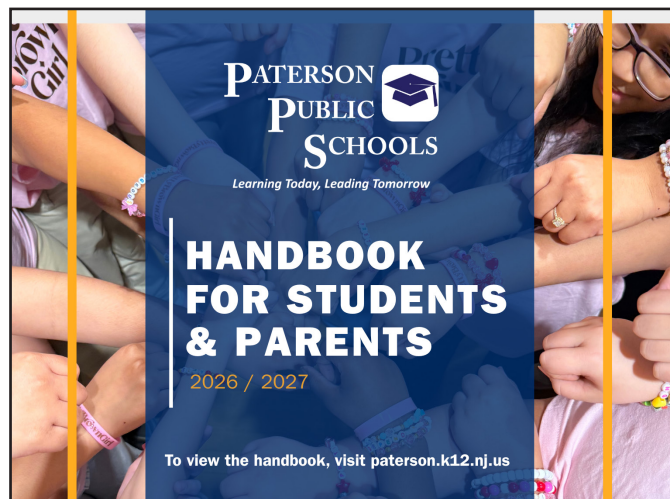
Maria Ross has worked with Paterson's ESL students for 37 years

NorthJersey.com | July 15, 2026

PARENT REMINDERS

REVIEW THE 2026-2027 HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, we encourage all parents and guardians to take some time to review the Paterson Public Schools Handbook for Students and Parents. The handbook outlines important district policies, procedures and expectations for students and families. Please take a moment to review the handbook with your child so that your family is familiar with the policies, procedures and expectations for the new school year. To review the handbook, [click here](#).



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BELL-TO-BELL POLICY

As the new school year begins, Paterson Public Schools is implementing a bell-to-bell policy for student use of personal internet-enabled devices, in accordance with New Jersey law and state guidance.

Cell phones, smartwatches, tablets and other personal internet-enabled devices must be turned off and not used from the first bell to the last bell of the school day. Families who need to reach their child during the school day should contact the school's main office.

To read Dr. Newell's letter to the district community regarding this policy, please [click here](#).



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

September 1-3	.Full Day Staff PD/No Students
September 4.	.Half Day Staff PD/No Students, 1 PM Dismissal (District)
September 7.	.Labor Day - District Closed
September 8.	.Opening Day for Students
September 15.	Back-to-School Night 6-8 PM (Grades 9-12)
	Back-to-School Night 6-8 PM (JAT, NRC, DHA)
September 17	.Back-to-School Night 6-8 PM (PreK-8)
September 21.	.Yom Kippur - District Closed

[Full 2026-2027 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, September 9th 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, September 16th. 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.eduision.tv/LiveEvents](https://ppseduision.tv/LiveEvents).

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della Wilder, 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

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This form can be found on the Communications Hub at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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

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