



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

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WELCOME BACK, PPS! A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS



Paterson Public Schools officially welcomed students back on September 8th, marking the start of the 2026–2027 school year. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, and cabinet members visited schools across the district to welcome students and staff, and observe the successful opening firsthand.

Schools across the district were well prepared for the new school year, reflecting months of planning and preparation. Principals, teachers, support staff, and students contributed to a positive and energized start.

“Seeing the energy and dedication across our schools today made it clear just how much hard work went into preparing for this moment,” said Dr. Newell. “From welcoming students at the doors to keeping everything running seamlessly behind the scenes, the efforts of our principals and district staff did not go unnoticed. I look forward to an incredible school year ahead.”

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

I hope that everyone had a successful first week of school! I had the opportunity to visit several schools across our district on opening day including Joseph A. Taub School, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School, School No. 8, School No. 5, and Norman S. Weir School. These visits gave me the opportunity to see firsthand the excitement, energy, and enthusiasm that filled our buildings.

At every school I visited, our buildings looked outstanding. The preparation and hard work that took place throughout the summer were clearly visible. Our principals and school leaders were present, engaged, and excited to welcome students and staff. Our teachers, support staff, and students brought an incredible sense of energy and purpose to the first day of school.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our custodial, facilities, transportation, food service, security, technology, and Central Office teams who worked throughout the summer to prepare our schools for a successful opening. Your dedication and commitment made a difference, and I am grateful for the work you continue to do on behalf of our students and families.



The first day of school is always a special moment. It represents a fresh beginning and a renewed opportunity to learn, grow, and build toward a successful year. Seeing our students return to classrooms and reconnect with their teachers and classmates reminded me of the tremendous potential that exists across Paterson Public Schools. For a look at just a few of the many schools we visited, [click here](#).

Bell-to-Bell Policy Update Reminder

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, I want to offer a gentle reminder about our Bell-to-Bell Policy update, which helps create focused learning environments for our students.

Personal internet-enabled devices, including cell phones, smartwatches, and tablets, should be turned off and not used from the first bell through the last bell of the school day. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact their school's main office for assistance.

Thank you to our families for your partnership and support. For more information about the Bell-to-Bell Policy, please visit the [district website](#).

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



GET YOUR 180: EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

The Department of Student Attendance, in collaboration with Lever 5 of the Paterson Progress Plan, continues its Get Your 180 attendance initiative to promote consistent school attendance and reinforce the importance of every school day.

The objective of the campaign is to increase awareness of the connection between regular attendance and student success. By encouraging students and families to prioritize daily attendance, the initiative supports greater opportunities for students to learn, grow, build essential skills, and remain connected to their school community.

With 180 days in the school year, every day counts. Paterson Public Schools encourages families to make attendance a priority and work together to help students make the most of every school day.

To learn more about the Get Your 180 initiative, visit the Student Attendance page on the [district website](#).



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: CONNECTING FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

Paterson Public Schools will host Back to School Nights on Tuesday, September 15th and Thursday, September 17th from 6 PM to 8 PM:

September 15 | 6 PM - 8 PM: Grades 9-12, Joseph A. Taub School, New Roberto Clemente, Dr. Hani Awadallah School, School No. 21

September 17 | 6 PM - 8 PM: Grades PreK-8

This is an opportunity for parents and guardians to connect with teachers, learn more about the school year, and support their students' success. For additional information, please contact your child's school.



DISTRICT FAMILIES INVITED TO PARENT WELCOME BACK CONFERENCE

Paterson Public Schools invites parents, families, students, and community members to the Parent Welcome Back Conference on Saturday, September 12th from 9 AM to 2 PM. The conference will provide families with valuable resources, information, and support to help ensure a successful school year.

The event will be held at Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School and will take place rain or shine. For additional information, please contact epena@paterson.k12.nj.us or barrick@paterson.k12.nj.us.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

September 15 Back-to-School Night 6-8 PM (Grades 9-12)
Back-to-School Night 6-8 PM (JAT, NRC, DHA, School No. 21)
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

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.eduvision.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

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

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