

For Immediate Release

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Paterson's School No. 28 Honored by Passaic County Sheriff's Office

County's law enforcement agency celebrated School No. 28 for its recent national recognition by U.S. News & World Report

Paterson, NJ (November 18, 2025) – Paterson's School No. 28, which was recently named the best elementary school and the second-best middle school in the state of New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report, was presented a plaque by the Passaic County Sheriff's Office on Monday, November 17. School No. 28 was also honored on Monday by the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners and the Passaic County Clerk for its outstanding achievements, and positive impact on children and families in the community.

With Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren in attendance, School No. 28 Principal Nancy Castro and Vice Principal Victoria Larosiliere accepted the honors on behalf of their school community.

"On behalf of the Passaic County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Thomas Adamo, we congratulate you on a job well done," said Passaic County Undersheriff Timothy Wheeler, who proudly presented a certificate of recognition to Principal Castro and Vice Principal Larosiliere.

"I would like to thank the Passaic County Sheriff's Office, Passaic County Board of County Commissioners, and the Passaic County Clerk for the recognition of being named the number one elementary school in New Jersey for the second consecutive year," said Principal Castro. "As we all know, this is a collaborative effort with our parents, staff, and students. I want to personally thank my partner in excellence, Vice Principal Victoria Larosiliere. We feel extremely supported by our district personnel, and I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve at School No. 28."

Passaic County Commissioner Rodney A. De Vore and Passaic County Clerk Danielle Ireland-Imhof represented their offices in presenting School No. 28 with certificates of recognition.

Overall, [School No. 28](#) ranked first out of 2,339 elementary schools and second out of 1,436 middle schools in the state. The school is home to the district's Paterson Academy of the Gifted & Talented (PAGT) program, which serves students grades 2 through 8 from across the city. PAGT students are carefully screened for their ability to excel in a rigorous curriculum and are provided with a learning environment that addresses their unique social, emotional, and academic needs. For students in grades 4 through 8, the curriculum is compacted and accelerated to meet individual student needs, while a variety of clubs during the school day further enhance their academic experience.

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 22,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 71% of the student population is Hispanic, 16% are Black, 6% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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