

For Immediate Release

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Paterson Public Schools Responds to Non-Continuation of Full-Service Community Schools Grant

District reviews impact, plans appeal following federal funding decision

Paterson, NJ (December 16, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools has been notified by the U.S. Department of Education that the District’s Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) grant will not be continued beyond the current funding period, ending December 31, 2025.

The District received formal notice indicating that the decision was based on a determination that the grant no longer aligns with the current administration’s priorities and policy preferences. The FSCS grant supports a range of community-based services delivered through partnerships that provide academic, health, and after-school support to students and families.

“The Full-Service Community Schools grant supports vital services that thousands of our students and families rely on. While this decision was made at the federal level, our responsibility to our community remains unchanged,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “We are moving quickly to understand the full implications of this action, to advocate for our students, and to pursue every available option to sustain critical support services.”

Paterson Public Schools is currently reviewing the notice, assessing the impact of the decision, and seeking additional clarification from the U.S. Department of Education. The District also plans to pursue an appeal.

Schools and Students Impacted (Preliminary Data)

Based on initial data compiled by the District, the FSCS grants supported services across multiple schools during the 2022 and 2023 grant cycles, including elementary, middle, and high schools.

- **2022 FSCS Grant**
 - Schools served: Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy and School No. 16
 - Health clinic student enrollment: 273 students
 - After-school program participation: 187 students
 - Student participation in activities: 341 students
- **2023 FSCS Grant**
 - Schools served: Eastside High School, Joseph A. Taub School, International High School, and School No. 10
 - Health clinic student enrollment: 731 students
 - After-school program participation: 597 students

- Student participation in activities: 2,371 students

Additionally, the 2023 FSCS Grant is in partnership with Passaic Public Schools and is inclusive of two FSCS sites.

The District continues to analyze the full scope of the impact, including staffing, services, and funding timelines, and will share additional details as they become available. Paterson Public Schools remains committed to the whole-child approach and will continue working with state leaders, community partners, and elected officials to identify alternative funding opportunities.

For more information visit our website at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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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