



For Immediate Release

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Paterson Students' Custom Race Car Selected to be Showcased at New York Auto Show

Creativity of Paterson students will take center stage at the Rides + Rigs Expo

Paterson, NJ (March 19, 2026) – A student-created 1974 Ford Capri race car restored by this year's Paterson Public Schools' Youth Empowered Stewardship (YES) Program cohort has been selected to be featured at the Rides + Rigs Expo (R2XPO) as part of the upcoming New York International Auto Show. The exhibition, held at the Javits Center in New York City from April 3 to 12, marks a major milestone for the YES Program and its innovative hands-on learning initiatives.

The Race Car project allowed students to collaborate with professional design teams and automotive industry experts to restore the vintage vehicle. By using stickers and decals to express their creativity, the students designed a car that perfectly captured this year's R2XPO theme "Celebrating Uniqueness in the Car Community and Culture". The completed vehicle, which was restored by artist and sculptor Dr. David Byer-Tyre, was [first unveiled](#) on January 7 at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex following months of planning and development.

"Congratulations to this exceptional group of students on having their work selected for the New York International Auto Show," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "The Race Car project is a powerful testament to the incredible skill and determination of our YES Program students. Showcasing their work on a world-class stage like the New York International Auto Show is a fitting tribute to their dedication and ingenuity."

Under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren and Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Cozart, the YES Program engages students in art-based experiences and discussions designed to build skills and promote community impact through empowerment stewardship, personal journeys, and community action.

"The selection of our students' work for the New York International Auto Show is an amazing accomplishment that these students will never forget," said Dr. Warren. "Seeing their hard work displayed on this stage proves that when students are given the right resources and mentorship, there is no limit to what they can achieve."

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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