

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aida E. Rosario
aerosario@paterson.k12.nj.us

Champions x2! Eastside, JFK Cheer Teams Crowned NJCDCA State Champions

Paterson Public Schools pride shines as both squads secure historic state titles

Paterson, NJ (March 13, 2026) - In what was a historic day for Paterson Public Schools, both Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School captured state titles at the New Jersey Cheerleading & Dance Coaches Association (NJCDCA) State Championship competition on Saturday, March 7 at Monroe Township High School.

The Ghosts took home their school's first state cheerleading championship by winning the top prize in the All-Music Co-Ed division. Building on their 2025 accomplishment as the first Paterson high school to ever win an NJCDCA state title, the Knights captured their second consecutive state championship after claiming first place in the Cheer Dance Medium/Large Group division.

"The extraordinary success of our cheerleading squads from Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School is a testament to the hard work, resilience, and excellence of our student-athletes," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "Winning two state championships on the same day is a historic milestone for Paterson Public Schools. These young leaders have shown the entire state what can be achieved through teamwork and determination. We are incredibly proud of them, their coaches, and the families who supported them every step of the way."

The two squads delivered powerhouse performances to secure championships in their respective categories. This dual victory marks a monumental achievement for Paterson Public Schools, showcasing the talent and discipline of the district's students on a statewide stage.

Eastside caps off a record-breaking season that includes a Liberty Division championship and the first state cheerleading title in school history. JFK continues to solidify itself as one of the top cheer programs in the state as they capture state cheerleading championships in back-to-back seasons.

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

###