



For Immediate Release

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Paterson Public Schools Celebrates the Class of 2026 at High School Graduation Ceremonies

District recognizes academic excellence and the bright futures awaiting this year's graduates

Paterson, NJ (June 26, 2026) – Paterson Public Schools proudly celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 during its high school graduation ceremonies held on Friday, June 26, at Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, NJ. Families, educators, and community members gathered to honor the district's graduates as they marked this important milestone.

The ceremonies recognized students from Eastside High School, International High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Newcomers High School, Paterson P-Tech High School, Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts, STARS/T.I.E.S. Academy, and Paterson STEAM High School. This year marked the first graduating class from Newcomers High School, whose students have established a foundation that will inspire future generations of learners, while Eastside High School celebrated its 100th graduating class, celebrating a century-long legacy of excellence that continues to shape the future.

Throughout the day, graduates were celebrated for their perseverance, academic achievements, and commitment to their futures. Student speakers reflected on their journeys, while district leadership emphasized the significance of this moment for both the students and the broader Paterson community.

"This graduation is a reflection of the determination and growth we see across our schools every day," said Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "The Class of 2026 has demonstrated resilience, focus, and a strong sense of purpose. We are proud of what they have accomplished and confident in what lies ahead for each of them."

The ceremonies featured remarks from district leaders, school administrators, and student representatives, highlighting the collective effort of families, educators, and the community in supporting student success.

As graduates crossed the field and celebrated with classmates and loved ones, the day marked not only the completion of their high school journey, but the beginning of new opportunities in college, careers, and beyond.

Paterson Public Schools extends its congratulations to the Class of 2026 and gratitude to all who contributed to making the ceremonies a meaningful and memorable experience.

For more information about Paterson Public Schools, visit: 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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