

The Paterson Education Fund (PEF) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to stimulate community action for change so that the Paterson Public Schools ensure that all Paterson children achieve high standards.

### Goals

- \*To build our community's civic capacity to support monitor and advocate education reform.
- \*To educate and enable community leadership to understand and act on changing educational needs.
- \*To provide a forum for the community to effectively participate in the decision making processes concerning education

Paterson Education Fund is a member of the Public Education Network (PEN), founded in 1991. The mission of PEN is to build public demand and mobilize resources for quality education for *all* children through a national constituency of local education funds and individuals. The Paterson Education Fund is a founding member.

Paterson Education Fund  
152 Market St. Suite 208  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
973-881-8914 voice  
973-881-8059 Fax  
[www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org)

Public involvement  
Public education  
Public benefit

## Look What You Did!

With your support PEF reached 6,600 middle school students with student advisories and celebrated 2,303 “50 Book Club” Readers. What a way to share PEF’s 25<sup>th</sup> year!



Our student advisory program, Navigation 101, successfully moved from its pilot year [07-08] for 2,200 sixth graders to serving 6,600 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders in all Paterson elementary schools. PEF provided student reflection materials and training for advisors and the Paterson Public Schools provided staff and other materials. “We are

delighted with the outcomes,” said Mike Smith, Paterson Public Schools’ new Director of Guidance. “Students have explored their interests, discovered their learning styles and explored careers. Best of all, they have shared their new knowledge about themselves with their parents through student led conferences.”

PEF is supporting the program for a third year as Dr. Evans, Paterson’s State District Superintendent, expands student advisories to the high schools as part of his strategic plan.

“50 Book Club” continues to grow with wonderful community support. “Every year we throw a Street Fair for the kids and their families. Each year more people step forward to help make the event exciting and special” says Karen Mayo-Hogan of PEF’s Board.

This year’s surprise guest was President Obama. Students were asked to sign a pledge to graduate from high school. Most heartening was the number of children who said, “I’m going to graduate from college!”



None of this could happen without your help. Thanks for a great 25<sup>th</sup> year!

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**Celebrate Good Times!**



PEF hosted 200 guests for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. We honored the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation whose support created and sustained PEF over the years. Steven Taub accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation. Many current and Former PEF Board members joined the party.





## Summer Informal Science

Thanks to Roche and PEF, four Paterson middle school science teachers spent four weeks developing hands on science lessons on the subject of water. They asked the question, “Would you swim in the Passaic River?” The teachers were assisted by five rising college freshman from Paterson.

Working with children from the Paterson YMCA and Paterson’s summer recreation day camps, they tested the lessons. Children, interns and teachers valued the experience. “Let’s do it again next year,” was the universal response. We hope that we can.

Our Roche project has an interesting background. The most veteran teacher on the team, Lynn Tarant, had been a PEF minigrant and Chase Active learner winner many times over. She and Sarah Sterling-Laldee were teacher leaders for the “Living Classroom” program, sponsored by the Dodge Foundation, which was also the training ground for the five interns. Dodge had also provided Sterling-Laldee the opportunity to do field study with Earthwatch. Earthwatch provided her with the impetus to volunteer to create PEF’s Girls United for the Earth and the girl’s study trip to Grenada. Two of the interns are veterans of the Grenada trips.



“I’m so grateful,” said Tarrant. “Roche gave us an opportunity to bring all our experience to bear. I now want to travel internationally to study and bring it back to Paterson’s kids.”

## ACTION ALERT



Paterson Education Fund  
www.paterson-education.org  
152 Market St., Suite 208  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
P: 973.881.8914  
F: 973.881.8059



If you are a member of PEF’s Action Alert network, you are familiar with this email banner. You will be seeing it a lot more in the coming months as we seek to stabilize school programs, move our new governor towards a Gradation For All initiative and meet the other challenges sure to come in the months ahead.

Not a member? It’s easy to join. Just go to PEF’s website at [www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org). You may use either the link on the homepage or click the ACT tab at the top to get to our advocacy tools. Sign in and you can begin to easily send letters to your state and federal legislators, as well as state and federal officials. You can also contact a variety of media outlets.

We welcome your participation. As a PEF Action Alert member we can keep you abreast of pending legislation and help you add your voice to the decision making.

We expect the New Jersey Legislature to have a lame duck session in January that will be a whirlwind of activity. Join us and don’t be surprised by the morning news!

## Civic Index 2010

PEF will also poll the Paterson community on its attitudes about education in the Spring 2010. We will be using the Civic Index developed by our national partnership organization, Public Education Network. It tests community attitudes about supporting education. It also provides a snapshot into how different Paterson groups seek out and receive education information. To view the 2008 edition of the poll, go to PEF’s website, [www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org) and go to News on the left hand navigation bar.

# 100% NJ Graduation For ALL

PEF is proud to be part of the campaign with its partners, Paterson Education Organizing Committee, the Statewide Education Organizing Committee, Abbott Leadership Institute, and the Education Law Center.

Our campaign platform:

We are failing our kids with high stakes testing for graduation. Some young people are graduating without the necessary skills and others are held back because of unfairness in the testing system.

Before any additional graduation tests are implemented, the NJ Department of Education must certify that all students have access to the qualified teaching personnel and academic support necessary to prepare for them.

We call for:

\* Alternative assessment options: as the state moves towards new end of course and graduation exams it should allow districts to develop additional local performance assessment systems that support better teaching and learning and could be externally validated by the state.

\* An implementation plan for all high school redesign initiatives to be given to schools before any new requirements are made. Such a plan would outline resource requirements, education requirements for teachers, and sample curricula. At the same time, there would be district assessment for "redesign readiness." The need for such a plan is outlined in A3692/S2574, the NJ secondary Education Redesign Review Act.

\* An explicit urban secondary reform initiative within the state's high school redesign efforts. Parents

should be on all school-based committees about graduation and performance. Such committees are called for in the NJ School Funding and Reform Act regulations, (N.J.A.C. 6A:13e).

Become a part of the campaign by going to Facebook and join the NJ Graduation for All Campaign.



## Imagine what graduating every child would mean!

- In Paterson, we would graduate 300 more children each year.
- They would earn an additional \$9,600 per year and we would receive additional taxes to support Social Security and Medicare.
- Fewer children would join gangs.
- More educated voters participate in civic life
- Fewer teen would get pregnant.
- More students would be prepared to go on to college and careers of their choice.





## **What's YOUR Red Rubber Ball?**

PEF celebrated its first Navigation 101 eighth grade to high school promotion with a visit by inspirational speaker, Kevin Carroll. Kevin told 2,000 rising ninth graders [Class of 2013] about discovering that sports, his red rubber ball, would help him cope with abandonment and poverty.

Every student received a copy of Kevin's workbook, "What's Your Red Rubber Ball?" to help them on their quest for meaning, imagination and passion in their lives.

Kevin has promised to return for their graduation in 2013. See his message to our kids on the PEF website, [www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org). Go to News on the left hand navigation bar.