

Paterson

EDUCATION

Fund Report

November 2003

ALL Means ALL

Educate ALL children: leave no child behind. We need to be reminded how extraordinary that goal is. Never before in our country- and never before in the world- has a people adopted such a goal. It is the fulfillment of our other extraordinary statement of faith-- that all people are created equal.

We are using many strategies to move this vision forward: early childhood education, more focused reading programs, tutoring, after-school programs and new curricula. And our early results are heartening. After 3 years, nearly a significant percentage of Paterson's 3 and 4 year-olds are attending early education. Our fourth graders are making progress. Researchers say they are making faster progress than their more fortunate peers. [See page 2 for more about implementing Abbott.]

Our older children are still struggling and leaving school in dismayingly numbers. [See page 7 for more details.] While Paterson's academies and small schools program is retaining our more able students, we still lose too many young people to the streets.

Paterson Education Fund is stepping up to help. With initial funding from the Schumann Fund for New Jersey and the Dodge Foundation, PEF will work to strengthen Paterson's small schools initiative to reach all Paterson high school children. "As a graduate of Paterson's first small school, Rosa Parks HS, I know the value of small, personalized, learning environments," says Karen Brown, PEF's President. "PEF will help Paterson educators and students make our small schools program even more effective. We want more young people to identify and reach their dreams. Our future as well as their future depends upon their success."



Paterson Implements Abbott: 2003

As we enter the sixth year of implementing the Abbott decision, Paterson Public Schools have reached the following benchmarks for 2003.

Early Childhood: q Full day four year old program: 1,802 [+105]
 q Half day three year old program: 1,527 [+ 95]
 q All day Kindergarten: 2,088 students [+ 44]

Whole School Reform: All schools implementing including the Talent Development model at Eastside HS.

Facilities: o Project plans in design for Hazel/Marshall School, and International HS; Jacobs Facilities of Virginia designated management firm; Panther Academy site begun spring 03 for September 2004 opening; the new Roberto Clemente School began construction in July 2003 to open in 2004, Health and Safety projects in all schools.

Local Reform Initiatives

mNine High School off site academies enroll 1,438 students
mFive Elementary School off site academies enroll 850 students

New Fourth Grade Assessment NJ ASK 4: 2003

i District wide: Language Arts 65.7%; Math 51.9%

Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment 2003

j District wide: Language Arts 63.1; Math 46.3%%

High School Proficiency Assessment 2003,

mDistrict wide: Language Arts Literacy [LAL] 73.5; Math 48.5;

Charter Schools

- | Paterson Charter School for Urban Leadership lost its charter; currently operating under the Paterson Public Schools.
- | Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology, opened September 2003 with 178 students.

PEF is a member of the Paterson Coalition for Our Children's Schools which provides details of school construction in Paterson. Call or e-mail PEF for more information.

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at 20: It was a Wonderful Year!

Thanks to everyone who made our 20th anniversary year so special.

Students as Readers.



It was an amazing year for the Paterson 50 Book Club. From 483 participants in 2002, the club expanded to 1,167 readers by June 2003! Cheers for the students who read, the teachers, librarians and parents who

encouraged them and the Herald News who designed our new logo and printed our poster. In order to print all the names, the poster has two sides. We still have some available, so call us for additional copies.



NJLEF: Working with Our Peers

The NJ Local Education Fund Coalition, convened by PEF includes the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence, the Public Education Foundation of Plainfield, East Orange Education Foundation and the Englewood Community Foundation. The NJ LEF Coalition is working to establish steering committees for new LEFs in Jersey City, Irvington, Asbury Park, among other communities. The Red Bank.. is considering membership.

The Coalition focused its work on working with its members to help their communities understand the continuing work to properly implement the Abbott Decision, the implications of the new federal law, No Child Left Behind, and NJ property tax issues. PEF's Rosie Grant and East Orange Education Fund's Eleanor Forbes presented testimony to the NJ Legislature's Joint Committee on the Public Schools on the importance of funding supplementary services to meet student needs.

Community Schools In October 2002, PEF co-sponsored a state-wide conference on "Planning and Building Community Schools" with the Coalition for Our Children's Schools, the Education Law Center, NJ Multi-City LISC and the Association for Children of NJ. More than 100 people met in Trenton to advocate for speedier implementation of school construction.

PEF followed up in January with a Paterson



focused conference featuring Mayor Torres and Dr. Duroy. More than 100 parents, School Board members and municipal

officials learned about the status of Paterson's plans and how to join the work. As a result of the conference, Dr. Duroy has created individual project advisory teams for the design and implementation phase of each new school that includes parents and community members.

Following the conference PEF's Irene Sterling also presented testimony to the NJ Legislature's Joint Committee on the Public Schools outlining the need to better define community schools both in program content and physical design.

Remembering Larry Rubin In January 2003, PEF lost one of its founding members, Larry Rubin. Larry worked tirelessly to improve the education of urban children. He continually urged PEF to agitate and advocate for education reform. This year would have made him proud.



Thanks to Our Givers

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Henry & Marilyn Taub Foundation
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Supporting Student Success

Hoffmann-LaRoche continues its tutoring partnership with the EW Kilpatrick School. Each year a team of Roche employees tutors 20 new third graders at the Roche facility in Clifton.



In 2003-4, teachers in two schools won \$5,000 each in Champion of Active Learning Awards from **JP Morgan Chase** to pursue hands on learning in their classrooms. This year's winners are:

Wendy Cox, Norman S. Weir School. "Experiencing Cultural Diversity" will reach 100 5-8th graders. Students will create presentations for a multicultural fair that demonstrate learning across the curriculum.

Lynn Tarant, School # 9. (Photo) "Portfolios of Power" will engage 120 seventh graders in exploring the concept of power across disciplines. Students will present their work to their parents at the culminating Home School Council Meeting.

The Kids on the Street and the Drop-Out Rate

It seems like good news. The drop-out rate for Paterson is getting smaller, for 2003 it fell below 10%. Paterson high schools are graduating children at nearly 90% or better according to the New Jersey School Report cards. If you examine the table below, however, you will see a different picture emerges. Our high schools lose large numbers of young people. In fact, in Paterson, we actually graduate only 52% of the students who begin 9th grade.

How does this happen? The State of New Jersey calculates the drop-out rate by comparing the number of student enrolled in October with the number enrolled in June, each year. It doesn't require districts or schools report the data over time for a class or cohort of children. The definition masks the terrible loss from the educational process.

We need to use the Abbott remedy and the No Child Left Behind laws to educate all of these young people. If they continue to leave school without a diploma they cannot make enough money legally to raise a family or have a home without public assistance. They will cost us money throughout their lives in public welfare or incarceration.

District	Selected NJ High Schools, Class of 2002	[1999] Grade 9	[2000] Grade 10	[2001] Grade 11	[2002] Grade 12	Graduation Rate (Percent)	Number of students lost: +grade 12 - grade 9	% of 9th grade who graduated
Jersey City	Dr Ronald McNair Academy High School	133	148	145	137	100.0%	+4.0	103.01%
Camden	Brimm Medical Arts High	65	60	59	58	100.0%	-7.0	89.23%
Newark	Technology High	171	163	151	142	94.7%	-29.0	83.04%
Newark	East Side	394	335	308	322	96.3%	-72.0	81.73%
Newark	University High	103	111	95	82	97.8%	-21.0	79.61%
Jersey City	James J Ferris	325.5	325	285	251	97.9%	-74.5	77.11%
Newark	Science High	163	147	137	125	100.0%	-38.0	76.69%
Paterson	<i>Rosa Park HS for the Performing Arts</i>	76	70	62	57	100%	-19.0	75.00%
Newark	Arts	155	139	119	115	100.0%	-40.0	74.19%
Elizabeth City	Elizabeth High School	1459	1236	827	939	92.0%	-520.0	64.36%
Newark	Barringer	547	407	331	321	78.1%	-226.0	58.68%
Jersey City	William L Dickinson	743.5	529	438.5	433	94.7%	-310.5	58.24%
Jersey City	Henry Snyder	345	279.5	189	200.5	98.5%	-144.5	58.12%
Newark	West Side High	428	297	261	227	82.3%	-201.0	53.04%
Paterson	JF Kennedy HS	715	636	294	364	89.50%	-351.0	50.91%
Paterson	<i>Eastside High School</i>	737	685	338	375	89.50%	-362.0	50.88%
Newark	Weequahic	301	270	195	140	85.5%	-161.0	46.51%
Camden	Woodrow Wilson High	507	322	253	228	93.4%	-279.0	44.97%
Jersey City	Lincoln	377	246	174	167	95.7%	-210.0	44.30%
Camden	Camden High	616	353	253	219	91.6%	-397.0	35.55%
Newark	Malcolm X Shabazz High	509	309	233	174	88.2%	-335.0	34.18%
	Total students:	8,870			5,077		3,794	

We will need more high school buildings, more teachers and better practices to reach and hold our young people. In Paterson, we will need 1,500 or more high school seats than we currently have.

If we are going to educate ALL of our children through high school, the task ahead is challenging. It will need us all.