

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.

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Public involvement
Public education
Public benefit

Who Needs a Navigator?

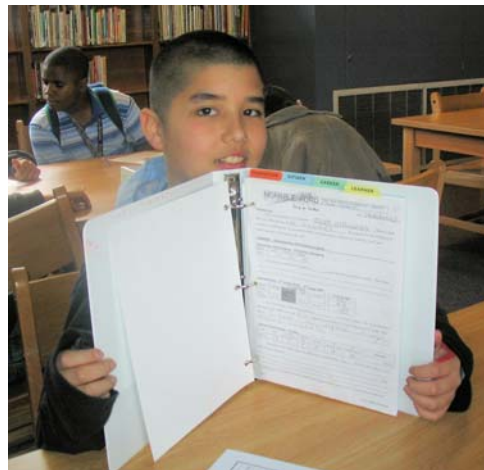
One of our high school students asked Gov. Bob Wise, “How do I get to college? Nobody in my family knows how. And I start things and don’t finish them. What can I do?” Governor Wise gave him some good advice and turned to us and said, “He needs a navigator.”

Think about it. If you know where you are going, you navigate without thinking about it. If you are going some place you’ve never been before, you need help to find your way. You need a navigator.

Most of Paterson Public School’s students will be the first in their family to go to college, in fact many will be the first to graduate from high school. Getting from school into college or technical training is an unknown pathway for them. Most of them need a navigator.

Here at PEF we’ve been developing tools to help our community navigate. This year PEF supports the implementation of Navigation 101, an advisory program to help students find their way to a productive future.

Navigation 101 helps students connect what they do in school to what they will do as adults. This year, all Paterson sixth graders are meeting in small advisory groups with an advisor who is leading discussions about their future plans. Students keep a portfolio to show not only their school performance, but also their career goals and outside activities.



In May, Navigation 101 culminates in a student led conference in which students present their work and goals to parents or guardian and their advisor.

Over time, Navigation 101 helps students stay on a productive track.

You can help. If you are a parent or guardian, be sure to attend the student led conference. Ask about your student’s portfolio. Talk about the student’s dreams and hopes.

If you are a community member, there are opportunities to discuss your educational journey, job, career and other life experiences with our students.

Call us, we’ll help you navigate.

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Thank you and welcome!

We can't thank you enough. Whether you wrote or called the Governor on behalf of Paterson's children, led a College Track workshop or supported our events, you were the Paterson Education Fund and the voice of Paterson's children.

If you spoke at the meeting or handed out sandwiches at the 50 Book Club, or donated to the Annual Fund, you were the Paterson Education Fund. And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Paterson Education Fund may have a small staff, but you are a large "army" of volunteers and supporters.

Over the next few months, PEF will

- Unveil a report on Paterson's civic health on education issues
- Open a newly revised website with a robust Action section
- Begin a monthly email newsletter
- Help prepare for the opening of the new International High School
- Keep you posted on the school funding and school construction issues
- As always, provide you with opportunities to support Paterson children

We are counting on you to hold us accountable and push us forward.

PEF extends a special thanks to the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation for their generous three year grant in support of our civic outreach initiatives, to Citibank and Hoffmann LaRoche for supporting Navigation 101 and to the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for PEF's first general operating grant. See pages 4-6 for a listing of all our wonderful supporters and volunteers.

Thanks to PEF's 2007 Honorees:

Barnes & Noble Rt. 3 for the Holiday Book Drive, Rima Bandeli and John



Johnson for leading the Navigation 101 training team, Arlene Lester of State Farm for her support of the Paterson schools and Adriana Ahmed for leading our Spanish speaking College Track team.

We couldn't do without you!

Welcome Isa Suqi to the PEF Board of Directors. Isa and his wife Alia own NextWave Web LLC, a printing company in the former Colt Press building on Marshall Street. The Suqis have two school aged sons.



How to get our students on the “College Track”

Act Locally

Want to get more Paterson children on the path to graduation and success? We have tools for you!

Arrange for a “College Track” workshop for your school or house of worship or organization. We can provide a 45 minute to 1/1/2 hour workshop for adults led by a peer facilitator. Using a PBS video called “The College Track” your group will talk about the challenges, suggest pathways and give participants tools to help your children. We also tailor workshops for students.

In 2007, more than 1,500 parents and students participated in college Track workshops, led by 18 volunteer peer facilitators.

You can become a College Track facilitator and lead workshops. Call Anna Villalongo at 973-881-8914 or anna@paterson-education.org, for more information.



Communications Academy students at the Ramapo College Arch

What do students say about preparing for college? The Communications Academy at J.F.Kennedy High School produces a guide for college and post secondary plans written from a student point of view and featuring real Paterson students, parents and teachers.

This year the guide is called “Wanna Go?” In addition to the topics you’d expect, students write about the rising number of scams involving scholarships and student loans.

PEF distributes 10,000 copies to Paterson 6-12th graders. Call us for a hard copy or download a copy from our new website [available December 2008 at our current address www.paterson-education.org].

Act Globally

[or at least at the Federal level]

Our efforts to get more children on the path of graduation and success could be greatly helped by changes proposed to the federal No Child Left Behind law. “Graduating Every Paterson Child” keynote speaker, Gov. Bob Wise proposes changing No Child Left Behind into *Every Child a Graduate*.

New proposals would target additional, new money into middle schools and high schools in poor communities. Funding would be provided for advisory programs [like Navigation 101], more rigorous curriculum and other innovations. Funds would also create better data systems so we could more accurately track students through public school to college and career. Find out more about the proposals at www.all4kids.org.



Gov. Wise pointed out that where we have targeted educational investment, in pre-school and early grades and in college, achievement has increased. What’s missing is the middle- support for the reforms in the middle grades and the high schools.

As we produce this Report, only two New Jersey Congressmen are sponsoring any of the education proposals: Reps. Donald Payne and Russ Holt. Encourage our Senators and your congressperson to co-sponsor the education bills. It would help move the proposals forward and ultimately help bring more targeted funding to Paterson schools.

Thank You!

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Clifton Savings Bank
Columbia Bank
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Egenolf Early Childhood
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Families & Schools Together
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Friend's Health Connection
Greater Paterson Chamber of
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Greenbaum Interiors

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Tenth Avenue Associates
The Hudson Heating
Wholesaler, Inc.
The Paterson Restoration
Corp.
Valley National Bank
Washington Mutual Home
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at 24: Education Organizing, a new effort

"If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation...want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightening. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.... Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." Frederick Douglass, 1857

Why organize?

Paterson children need:

- ✓ Adequate and predictable funding for the schools
- ✓ Adequate school facilities
- ✓ Support programs for children who come to school with disadvantages

The landmark 1998 Abbott V decision directed the state of New Jersey to provide those necessities. But a series of Governors and Legislators have whittled away the intent of the law. Paterson currently faces flat or declining state funding with no local tax base to make up the needed difference. NJ has built only 3 of the 14 new school Paterson needs. And less money available for tutoring, summer programs, health supports and other supplemental programs to help children overcome disadvantage.

It's not OK.

So we have joined 4 other advocacy and organizing groups based in Newark, Jersey City and Paterson in a three year initiative to organize around these issues. PEF and ACORN are the Paterson team. One Newark Education Coalition, Jersey City Statewide Education Organizing Committee, Abbott Leadership Institute, and the Education Law Center, support the work in Newark and Jersey City. Representing New Jersey's 3 largest cities and more than 94,000 children, we have formed the New Jersey Education Organizing Collaborative [NJEOC].

NJEOC is working on local campaigns within our cities as well as campaigning on our three statewide issues. In Paterson, ACORN is organizing in the 2nd and 4th Wards. PEF provides issue training for the organizers and the local leaders as well as school budget training for all three cities.



NJEOC is part of an important new philanthropic investment in community-based public education reform. Local groups in Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia and as well as New Jersey, are supported by an extensive collaborative of funders including Ford Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Prudential Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Edward W. Hazen Foundation and Surdna Foundation at the national level.

Local New Jersey funders include the Prudential Foundation, the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey, the Fund for New Jersey, Community Foundation of New Jersey,,JP Morgan Chase, Sagner Family Foundation and the Victoria Foundation