

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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www.paterson-education.org

Public Involvement
Public education
Public benefit

Do All Kids Deserve Good Schools?

You are shaking your head “Yes” and wondering why such a question appears in the PEF Report. Of course all kids deserve good schools! Doesn't everyone think so?

Unfortunately, too many people don't. We are currently engaged in a fight to keep the school funding for Paterson children and other poor children around the state of New Jersey adequate to give them a quality education. We have to win the battle.

Our children are telling us, “We want to succeed. We need your help!”



We hear it over and over. This fall at PEF's third “Graduating Every Paterson Child” conference, our kids told us, “We need you to help us.”

We heard from the newly formed Paterson Youth Council. We heard it from the Paterson Teach For Tomorrow students. “I want my students to get a better education than I did.”

And most poignantly from the youngest of them following a service learning trip to Grenada, “I didn't know that there is so much opportunity out here for me.”

These students want to be the first in their families to graduate and go on to college. We cannot fail them.

Paterson Education Fund

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Give Kids Good Schools is a campaign sponsored by PEF's national organization to guarantee a quality public education for every child in the nation. Through national activities and online resources, the campaign seeks to provide Americans with the information and tools we need to take action in our communities and improve our public schools.

Give Kids Good Schools encourages you to:

- ✓ Learn the facts about quality public schools
- ✓ Vote to support and promote quality public education in your community and across the country
- ✓ Act by letting public officials and others know that quality public education is a top priority all year long

Go to www.givekidsgoodschools.org and join the campaign!

Following the “College Track”

“Give them hope,” said keynote speaker **Dr. Pedro Noguera** as he addressed PEF’s **Graduating Every Paterson Child** conference in September.



Anna looks forward to the next stage of College Track as PEF trains young people to provide peer to peer workshops using the College Track.

PEF College Track workshops also include the guide **“You Can Get There from Here”** produced by the students of JFK’s Communications Academy. The second edition is being distributed throughout Paterson. It features some very fascinating stories. **David Ward** writes about his mother who will be a freshman in college at the same time as David. **Tasmiah Choudhury** profiles a JFK graduate, **Nellista Bess**, who has returned to JFK to teach.

“Give us inspiration,” asked **Brenda Valladares**, a senior at International High School and a member of the newly formed Paterson Youth Council.



Also profiled are some of the JFK students who wrote the first edition of the guide. They are now in college and reflect on their experiences. Some of the students are thriving. Others are struggling. All of them agree with **Marliedy Morel**, now a Montclair State University student, **“I didn’t realize the caliber of work expected until I went to college.”**

“Don’t give up on us. Sometimes kids don’t show that they want help, but they do,” confided **Kathy Chavez** of JF Kennedy HS.

Anna Villalongo of PEF listens and shakes her head. **“Too many young people don’t know what they need to do,”** she says. **“That’s why our College Track workshops are so important. Whether we are talking to young people or their parents, they need hope-and information.”**

Anna trains and coordinates PEF’s 16 volunteer College Track facilitators. In 2006, **Anna** and the College Track volunteers will have introduced more than 1,200 young people and their parents to the requirements of getting on the college track.

Karen Mayo-Hogan, PEF board member and College Track facilitator, is passionate about expanding the opportunity for young people. **“So many of us didn’t get to go. Nobody thought that we were college material. I want to change that. I know that by working together we can.”**

Danielle Basu learned the hard way. Starting as an EOF student at Ramapo College, she has returned to PCCC to recover her academic way. **“In JFK, I was able to have my fun all the time and do my homework a minute before class. There is no way I can do that here... College isn’t like any high school. Responsibility plays a major part.”**

JFK’s Communications Academy students are currently working on a third edition of the guide with PEF support. **“Working on the guide has been a tremendous opportunity for my students to focus on preparing for college,”** says **Lories Nye-Slockbower**, faculty advisor.



Thank you! ¡Gracias! Thank you! ¡Gracias! Thank you! ¡Gracias! Thank you!

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Making change in Paterson is NOT a spectator sport! We need everyone's help to move forward.

Here are 10 things you can do to make change.

1. Take action, don't just grumble. Legislators, school board members and newspapers can't hear you unless you write, email or phone. So few people do that your voice will be really loud.
2. Tell people what you value. Good schools, fairness, equity, and accountability are values we embrace as Americans. Speaking of your values gains you allies.
3. Support the children around you. If we all do that, then we CAN reach them all.
4. Participate in a group at your school, house of worship, local neighborhood. No single person can make the changes our children need. Work together.
5. Vote. And encourage others to vote.
6. Learn about the issues.
7. Attend a School Board Meeting.
8. Schedule a College Track Workshop. Call Anna Villalongo at (973) 881-8914.
9. Sign the Give Schools Good Schools Pledge at www.givekidsgoodschools.org.
10. Tell your friends and family 10 things they can do to make change.



Farewells and Welcomes

On June 4th at PEF's Jazz Brunch, PEF said farewell to Board member Teri Duda of Berkeley College. PEF welcomed Librada Sanchez of William Paterson University, William "Kemper" McDowell of the City of Paterson's Health Department and Karen Brown, Passaic County Clerk as the Board of Directors, Class of 2009.



PEF's 2006 Awardees , pictured from left to right:

Susan Lane of Rolling Readers, recipient of the PEF President's Award;

Angela Crockett, School Library Media Specialist of School 24, recipient of the PEF Executive Director's Award;

Teri Duda of Berkeley College, PEF President;

Stan Karp, former teacher at JFK HS, recipient of the PEF Executive Director's Award; and

Steven McCarthy, representing the Herald News, recipient of the Community Partners Award.

Not pictured, Lories Nye-Stockbower, of JFK HS, recipient of the PEF Executive Director's Award.



Mark your Calendar and join us for the 2007 PEF Jazz Brunch at the home of Jamie and Mary Dykes. It's Jazz on the Lake on Sunday, June 3, 2007. See you there!

Save the Date and Join us!

November 12-14: **"Local Education Funds and their Strategic Role in Advancing School Reform"** Public Education Network Annual Conference, Washington DC. Irene Sterling serves on the Planning Committee.

January 9, 2007: **"The College Track" Facilitator Training**, Call PEF at 973-881-8914 to register. *We want you to lead the conversation!*

January 27: **Planning and Building Community Schools in Paterson, Our Kids Can't Wait!**: Conference on School Construction Issues. Passaic County Community College.

February 5: **So you want to run for School Board? How to run.** PEF Offices.

March 5: **Assessing School Board Performance.** PEF Offices.

April 5 Th: **PEF Paterson School Board Candidates' Night**; 6:30 pm JFK High School TV Studio.

April 17 Tuesday: **School Board Elections.** All Type II School Districts -those with elected school boards.

June 3: **PEF's 24th Anniversary Jazz Brunch, Jazz by the Lake**; 2 to 5 pm. Join us for an afternoon of great music and an elegant brunch at the home of Jamie Dykes.



June 7: *50 Book Club Celebration*, the Paterson Free Public Library, 5 pm.

September 2007: **15th Anniversary of the opening of the Library Power Libraries** in 15 Paterson elementary schools. Watch for celebrations!

September 29: **"Graduating Every Paterson Child"** the fourth annual conference. PCCC 8:30 to 3 pm.

October 10: **PEF's Ninth Golf Invitational**, High Mountain Golf Club, Franklin Lakes.



We Can't Wait: 2008 is PEF's 25th Anniversary!

Missed a PEF Report?

Want to be sure to get upcoming reports?

Please send me:

- PEF's "Through Our Eyes" bibliography, books for children on immigration, racism and social justice.
- PEF's "Choosing a Small High School in Paterson" a community guide for students, parents and community members. Also available in Spanish.
- PEF's Guide to Paterson School Budget 2007-08. Available March 2007
- Educated Voter's Guide to the School Board Elections 2007. Available March 2007
- Full color poster for 50 Book Club 2006, listing the names of all the 50 Book Club Readers
- You CAN Get There from Here: A Guide to College Opportunities for Paterson Students, 2006 edition.

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____. Keep me informed! Keep me invited!

Name:

Email:

Address:

Zip: