

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES APPOINTMENT
OF EILEEN SHAFER AS ACTING SUPERINTENDENT
OF PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

PATERSON, New Jersey, July 10, 2017 – The New Jersey State Board of Education has approved the appointment of Ms. Eileen Shafer as Paterson Public Schools new Acting State District Superintendent effective immediately. Ms. Shafer is the first woman to be named Superintendent for the State’s third largest school district with 54 schools and over 28,000 students.

Ms. Shafer began her career in Paterson Public Schools in 1992 as the Supervisor of the Substance Awareness Department. Through her tenure, she has served in many leadership positions including Director of Human Resources and Assistant Superintendent over the district’s high schools. In fact, she was the driving force behind the High School Renewal Initiative which involved transforming the district’s comprehensive high schools (Eastside and John F. Kennedy) into career-themed academies. Since 2012, she has served as Paterson’s Deputy Superintendent whereby she successfully led the initiative to end pre-k through grade 2 suspensions, revised the district’s Student Code of Conduct, directed the Community/District Committee to produce a five year, long range facility plan, decreased overtime expenses by 50%, and helped lead the district’s efforts to transition to local control.

Paterson Board of Education President Christopher Irving, Ed. D. noted, “Over the past eight years, this district has realized many successes but there is much more work to be done. Our Board is confident in Ms. Shafer’s leadership skills and her ‘get things done’ attitude; and we are very much looking forward to working with her as we remain steadfast in our commitment to returning this district to full local control.”

Eileen Shafer earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair University and a Master of Education degree from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. She is a visionary who prides herself on focusing on the education of Paterson’s children and delivering exceptional customer service.

###