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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVES NEARLY \$2.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FUNDS

Grant to bring more services to JFK Educational Complex, Public School 2

PATERSON – Paterson Public Schools officials announced today that the district has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Full Service Community Schools program. The grant will be in the amount of \$499,668 from the period of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. The grant is expected to be for 5 years for a total award of \$2,498,340 and will benefit the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex and Public School 2.

“This funding goes directly to empowering Paterson families by bringing many of the services they need to the schools their children attend,” said Paterson Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “When families can get the services they need more conveniently, that has a direct effect on our students’ abilities to succeed in school. I want to thank Congressman Pascrell for his support and all of the people who banded together to make this grant possible.”

“As a former teacher, I understand the critical importance of ensuring children have direct access to the services they need to help them succeed in school,” said U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr., New Jersey’s only member of the House Ways and Means Committee and a former Mayor of Paterson. “I was pleased to write to the U.S. Department of Education and advocate for this much-needed funding, as I have with previous FSCS grants to Paterson schools. This funding will help Paterson add two more schools to make a roster of seven that can address the needs of students in a holistic way and set them on a path of lifelong learning. Providing students and families with health care, counseling, afterschool programs, and many other services will greatly improve the safety and well-being of our Paterson community – most of all, our children. I want to congratulate Superintendent Shafer and her colleagues who work every day to make Paterson Public Schools better.”

Programs and services to be provided by full service community schools include: in-school health clinic with medical, dental and mental health services; in-school academic assistance; afterschool and summer programs inclusive of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and performing and visual arts; programs to support our students’ transition to elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education; internship opportunities for high school students; career pathways exploration program; chronic absenteeism mentorship; anti-bullying/violence prevention; Restorative Justice; family nights; parent workshops; adult education programs such as ESL and workforce development; and access to social services.

In addition to Congressman Pascrell, Shafer also expressed her gratitude to N.J. State Assembly Members Benjie E. Wimberly and Shavonda E. Sumter, and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh.

Shafer thanked the Paterson Public Schools team that worked to pursue the funding including Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron, Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau, Associate Chief Academic Officer Eric Crespo, and Supervisor of School Improvement Kristy Wellins. Shafer also thanked Kemper McDowell, executive director of Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Department; and

Gilman Choudhury, supervisor of Full Service Outreach and Special Projects in the Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Department.

The Paterson Public Schools will be converting the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex and Public School 2 into full service community school partnerships with several community groups including the Paterson Education Fund, the New Jersey Community Development Corporation, Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children, El Mundo de Colores Child Care Center, Health N Wellness Services, Inc., and Felician University.

With this grant, Paterson Public Schools will have a total of seven full service community schools. The others are Public School 5, the Senator Frank L. Lautenberg School (Public School 6), Public School 15, the New Roberto Clemente School, and the Napier School of Technology.

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