

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Preparing All Children for College and Career
Together We Can*



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SUPERINTENDENT SHAFER TESTIFIES BEFORE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Among the meeting's topics: Is QSAC an appropriate tool in deciding whether a school district should be taken over by the state?

PATERSON – Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer testified before the Joint Committee on Public Schools today about whether the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) has effectively met its goals in school districts that were taken over by the state, or if its programs resulted in overburdening troubled school districts.

“We are coming into this discussion from the perspective of a public school district that has been under state control since 1991. Twenty-seven years is a long time for tens of thousands of families not to have a voice in the major decisions that affect the education of their children,” Shafer said. “In a 10-year period, from 2007 to 2017, Paterson Public Schools went through nine QSAC cycles – all of which lasted several days, all of which took resources away from our core mission of educating students to fulfilling QSAC requirements.”

Paterson Education Fund Executive Director Rosie Grant also testified before the Joint Committee. Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, a member of the Joint Committee, commended both Shafer and Grant for their remarks on behalf of the Paterson Public Schools.

Also present at the hearing were Deputy Superintendent of Schools Susana Peron, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Diodonet, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Joanna Tsempeles, and Culture, Climate & Non-Traditional Programs Director Theodore “T.J.” Best.

NJQSAC is the state Department of Education's monitoring and district self-evaluation system for public school districts. It is a single, comprehensive accountability system that consolidates and incorporates the monitoring requirements of applicable state laws. The system focuses on monitoring and evaluating school districts in five key components that have been identified to be key factors in effective districts: Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel.

The Paterson Public Schools District has been under state control since 1991. On May 2, the New Jersey Board of Education approved a resolution to put the district on a path to local control. On September 5, the Paterson Public Schools district received the state's

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two-year transition plan that lays out the terms and conditions for the return of the district to local control. If the district meets all of the expectations in the two-year plan, the state education commissioner will recommend the complete withdrawal of state intervention with the district in 2020.