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Contact: Paul Brubaker

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973-518-2298

pbrubaker@paterson.k12.nj.us

## **PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEGINS COMPREHENSIVE SELF-ASSESSMENT WITH HIGH SCHOOL EQUITY AUDIT**

*Audit findings will be used to recognize biases and inequities in Paterson high schools*

PATERSON – In an effort to better ensure that all Paterson Public Schools high school students have the support they need to reach their highest potential, district officials tonight unveiled their plan to begin an equity audit of the district’s high schools.

“So much has been said, written and done in the efforts to assess our students’ performance, but what about the district’s performance?” said Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “This equity audit, the first of its kind to be done in the district, will allow us to know where we have weaknesses and biases as well as where in our high schools we are performing best. This work will not be quick. It will not be easy. But the information we get from it will be worthwhile in helping Paterson Public Schools reach its true potential in helping our students reach theirs.”

“This will be a close examination of how we deliver instruction and provide opportunities and whether we are providing students access to the courses and programs that draw out their true potential for academic success,” said Supervisor of College and Career Readiness Will Graulich.

In his presentation to the Paterson Board of Education tonight, Graulich said that district officials plan to use the equity audit findings to recognize biases and inequities in the high schools, address issues in the short-term when possible, create strategies to address larger issues in the long term, and ultimately create and sustain a free and equitable learning environment.

The equity audit will involve extensive reviews of district data, Graulich said. But feedback from students and families through focus groups and surveys will also be a major part of the effort. While outreach efforts aren’t slated to begin until early 2019, Graulich said he did want to hear from members of the community who would be interested in participating in these efforts as soon as possible.

Any parents, guardians or community stakeholders of Paterson Public Schools high school students interested in participating in the surveys and focus groups can sign up by entering their email address at the following link: [TinyURL.com/PatersonHSEquity](https://tinyurl.com/PatersonHSEquity)

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