



Media Contacts:

Paterson Public Schools

Terry Corallo, tcorallo@paterson.k12.nj.us

973-321-2430

City of Paterson

Patricia Cabrera, pcabrera@patersonnj.gov

973- 321-1600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY, PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPENS
EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM TO EARN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

“Virtual Library Capabilities are Added Benefit of Partnership Agreement”

PATERSON, New Jersey, May 23, 2016 – Paterson Public Schools has entered into a lease agreement with the City of Paterson to utilize downtown building space (located at 77 Ellison Street) for the purpose of launching a new alternative learning program for students to fulfill their high school graduation requirements.

The Extended Learning Opportunity Program is now available to Paterson students who have dropped out of high school; and provides them with a path towards earning their high school diploma or GED via a “blended learning” approach (i.e. a mix of online and in-class course offerings). Participating students will be required to have approximately 30 high school credits, and upon enrollment into the program, a *Personalized Learning Plan* will be created to ensure each student has the best chance for success – which includes rigorous coursework, face-to-face instruction, tutoring assistance, weekly conferences with content area teachers, and on-line technical support if needed. Prospective students for this program are currently being identified by the district.

“One of our district’s core beliefs is that every child can achieve at high levels and it is the responsibility of educators to create environments where student learning can occur,” said Superintendent, Dr. Donnie Evans. “This new program will provide an alternative path for the young men and women of Paterson who gave up on school for one reason or another, but who want the opportunity to try again. Certainly, their best chance for success in this highly competitive, global world begins with earning a high school diploma.”

Additionally, this facility will be used as one of several locations throughout the City to help bring the Paterson Library closer to its residents’ homes. As the city that offered this country one of its first free libraries, Paterson is now offering a free mobile app that can be downloaded and bring the library right to your phone – or residents can visit the 77 Ellison Street location during set hours of operation and will have access to a “Virtual Library” that includes a wide range of books and audio books that can be downloaded, online magazines, World Book Online and Newspapers Direct, which offers papers from around the world, available on the same day of publication.

“We are very proud of this collaboration with the Paterson Public Schools and happy to offer Paterson students the most up to date tools and resources through the virtual library,” said Mayor Jose ‘Joey’ Torres. “This extended reach beyond the classroom is a great opportunity that will help students in all aspects of their school experience and hopefully, will help prepare them with the necessary skills to pursue higher education and, or enter the competitive job market of the 21st century.”

The “Virtual Library” is accessible through the Library’s Website: www.patersonpl.org.

About Paterson Public Schools

The Paterson Public School District is a diverse urban school district located in northern New Jersey. As the third largest school district in New Jersey, the district enrolls over 28,000 students in 54 schools to accommodate students in Pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The school district's strategic plan focuses on four priorities: Effective Academic Programs; Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures; Family & Community Engagement; and Efficient & Responsive Operations. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us.