



Pablo Muñoz  
Superintendent of Schools

November 21, 2017

Dear Passaic Public Schools Team Members,

I am excited to announce that the plan to continue the growth of the Passaic Public Schools was approved by the Board of Education at the meeting held on November 20, 2017. My presentation to the Board of Education is available on our website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org).

Our plan to transform the school system is built around our belief that our students will be more successful, both academically and emotionally, if we provide an environment that nurtures and supports learning. In addition, significant research has found that how we structure our schools has a significant impact on our students' success.

This exciting plan includes creating Kindergarten through Grade 8 school zones, closing Lincoln Middle School, and providing essential space to create two new grade 6-12 schools, and thereby reducing the overcrowding at Passaic High School.

The two new schools, Passaic Preparatory Academy and Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering will provide academically challenging learning experiences for students in grades 6-12. Both schools will provide significant Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment college courses, preparing our students to be academically competitive at the state and national level.

Passaic Preparatory Academy will provide students the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of Advanced Placement courses that are inclusive of academics and the arts. Pathways of study for students will include Humanities/Liberal Arts, Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, and Musical Arts.

Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering will provide a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focused curriculum, including Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and innovative courses developed through partnerships between industry and leading universities. Pathways of study for students will include Engineering, Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Data Analytics, Computer Science, and Mathematics Studies.

Passaic High School will be structured around college and career pathways aligned to career certification and provide opportunities for students to earn college credits. Pathways of study for students will include Radio and TV Production, Information Technology, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, National Academy Foundation Finance Academy, Building Trades, Health Sciences, Education, and Automotive Technology. In addition, the NJROTC program will operate out of Passaic High School as we continue to build one of the strongest programs in the nation.

Our nationally recognized Marching Band program and our athletic teams will continue to compete under the banner of Passaic High School, and include students from all three schools.


Over the coming months, we will be hiring principals for the new schools and begin renovation work in buildings to welcome students in September 2018. The Board of Education will be adopting policies and regulations for the new K-8 school zones and placement of students into new programs. Information brochures and the student application process for the new schools will be finalized over the next few months. We expect that students and teachers will receive their preliminary assignments before they leave for summer break.

We understand that this transition will be challenging. It will require classroom and faculty moves that will ultimately provide a stronger educational experience for our students. It is our belief and hope that this transition is the next step toward transforming our schools to become the best urban school system in New Jersey.

As a district, we are proud of the growth in student achievement occurring in our schools, across grade levels and content areas. Our high school graduation rate has increased from 60% in 2011 to 81% in 2017, the highest in recent history. Passaic students are being accepted into some of the best colleges in the country, and we are committed to continuing this progress. This work is done every day throughout our schools by our staff, and we sincerely appreciate every person's contribution.

I am looking forward to collaborating with you throughout the year as we work together towards Becoming the Best!

Sincerely,



Pablo Muñoz  
Superintendent of Schools