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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS LAUNCHES DINNER PROGRAM AT 10 SCHOOLS
Another school slated to begin serving dinner tomorrow, more schools to start later this year

PATERSON – Paterson Public Schools officials announced today that this year’s dinner program for students has been launched at 10 district schools, and an additional school is scheduled to begin serving dinner tomorrow. More schools are expected to serve dinner later this year as more after school programs begin.

“Children simply cannot learn if they are hungry,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “This program is aimed at helping our students become more food secure so that they can be at their best when they come to school.”

The 10 schools presently serving dinner are Public Schools No. 1, No. 5, No. 6, No. 15, No. 18, No. 24, No. 27, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex, the Young Men’s Leadership Academy, and Eastside High School. Public School No. 10’s dinner program is scheduled to begin tomorrow, October 11th. By the end of this week, the district will be serving dinner to 956 students. Parents and guardians of students at these schools seeking more information about the dinner program should contact the main office at their child’s school.

Paterson Public Schools Food Services Department began serving dinner to students in the 2016-2017 school year with a pilot program involving two schools. About 100 students participated in the program at that time. In 2017-2018, the program expanded to 13 schools serving about 500 students. During the last school year, 23 schools served dinner with about 1,400 students participating.

Food Services Director David Buchholtz said that he expected more schools to begin serving dinner soon. He is also working on expanding the dinner program to churches and community centers.

“We are working to repeat the success of our dinner program this year,” said Buchholtz. “It’s our way of supporting the education of Paterson students and hopefully bringing some peace of mind to their parents and guardians.”

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