

Camden City School District

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PRESS RELEASE

District schools open with highest pre-k enrollment numbers on record

Superintendent joins Advisory Board, City Hall, Police Department, and Freeholder Board in celebrating safety, academic achievement, and new technology on Camden's first day of school

September 2, 2014--Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard today kicked off the 2014-15 school year by visiting District schools with Mayor Dana Redd, Police Chief Scott Thomson, and the Advisory Board of Education. Visits highlighted the work the District has undertaken over the summer to improve District schools as part of [The Camden Commitment](#).

Early education enrollment at an all-time high

When visiting the Early Childhood Development Center, Superintendent Rouhanifard joined Principal Susan T. Goyins in celebrating the City's highest-ever level of pre-school enrollment. This year 93 percent of all pre-school-eligible Camden kids are attending school, ensuring more youngsters are getting the best possible start to their education.

Technology upgrades give every Camden student access to modern learning opportunities

In addition, students and staff across District schools will see improved Internet access, speed, and reliability this year, thanks to a major infrastructure upgrade undertaken this summer. Students and teachers will have over 2,300 new laptops to support lesson planning and to increase the use of blended learning to prepare students to succeed in a technology-driven world. Forest Hill Elementary School and H.B. Wilson Family School, where the Superintendent is visiting Tuesday, will each receive more than 50 new laptops and three laptop carts each.

Safety remains a priority

Students and parents across Camden travelled to school this morning along Safe Corridors. The Safe Corridors program is a renewed partnership between the District, City Hall, and the Camden County Police Department that promises to help keep kids safe on their journeys to and from school by providing increased police presence on the main routes to Camden public schools.

Students attending Camden's two largest comprehensive high schools this year will benefit from a major overhaul of their school security systems. The high-tech security pilot at Camden High School and Woodrow Wilson High School promises to reduce the number of entry and exit points in both schools from over 80 to fewer than 15. High-tech cameras and door sensors are being fitted to improve basic monitoring allowing school security officers to focus more of their time on monitoring student behavior and supporting a positive school culture.

"The first day of school is a time to dream big and to set clear goals for what we can accomplish as students, schools, and a school district this year," said Rouhanifard. "I spent this summer speaking with parents and students across Camden, and it is clear that raising academic achievement and improving our students' college and career-readiness is a goal I share with our families. I am hopeful that together our educators, administrators, students, and families will make this year successful for Camden's public schools."

"I would like to welcome all of our new students and parents to the Camden City School District. For all those students who are returning, we are pleased to have you back," said Mayor Redd. "Along with Superintendent Rouhanifard, I look forward to working with you to make sure every student has a safe, successful and productive academic school year."

"The first day of school is marked by new horizons and journeys for the students of our city," Chief Thomson said. "Keeping children safe and ensuring they have secure and sound pathways to and from school is paramount for our department."

For images, interviews, or additional information, contact Maita Soukup from the Camden City School District Office of Communications at: msoukup@camden.k12.nj.us.

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