



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD  
SUPERINTENDENT

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## PRESS RELEASE

# Superintendent Rouhanifard Joins Mayor Redd to Announce New Camden Parent Partnership at the Isabel Miller Community Center

*District Celebrates First Parent Partnership with City Hall at Camden Clean Liberty Park / Centerville Beautification Day*

**May 20, 2015 – Camden, NJ** – Mayor Dana L. Redd today joined Camden City School District Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard to announce the Camden Parent Partnership at Isabel Miller, the third of four neighborhood parent centers the District will open this year. The partnership between the District and City Hall will offer Centerville and Liberty Park families resources and support to help their children succeed in school.

The Camden Parent Partnership at Isabel Miller will feature a dedicated District parent room where parents and students can attend classes, receive information from the School District, and ask questions about any aspect of their child's education. Designed to give Camden families more resources to help their children succeed in school, the Camden Parent Partnership at Isabel Miller will offer supports to both families and students living in Centerville and Liberty Park.

Camden City School District's Family University is a new skill-building program that will offer parents and caregivers classes that cover key development areas for parents: health and wellness; career readiness; adult education; and parenting and family bonding. The classes are free to all Camden families and will be led by qualified District staff and community partners.

Through a partnership with the City and the Center for Family Services, the Camden Parent Partnership at Isabel Miller will also offer literacy tutoring to local students through the Born to Read Program. Born to Read is a grade-level reading initiative focused on raising children's literacy levels through one-on-one tutoring. The program reduces summer learning loss, increases parent engagement, and increases exposure to books.

To celebrate the announcement of the first Camden Parent Partnership site coming to a City-run community center, today the Mayor and Superintendent rolled up their sleeves and joined dozens of Camden Clean

volunteers to beautify the community center and surrounding neighborhood. Volunteers from the Camden City School District, Volunteers for America, and the Environmental Protection Agency were on hand to plant flowers, paint, and remove litter.

“This is a great day for Centerville and Liberty Park families,” **Mayor Dana Redd** said. “Our public schools are making progress, but if our children are going to get the high-quality education they deserve, we need to work hard to make sure students and their families have the supports in place to make the most of their education, and set out on the right path in life.”

“The evidence is clear: when parents are engaged in their child’s education, students have a better chance of success in school, college, and career. That’s why I am so excited to announce our third Camden Parent Partnership,” **Superintendent Rouhanifard** said. “I am confident that the Family University classes we’re offering at Isabel Miller will equip more Camden parents with the skills to help their children succeed in school. The better we engage parents and families, the closer we come to reaching our goal of a great school in every neighborhood, for every child.”

“Camden Parent Partnership sites are a great way for the District to get out into the community to support our parents and help our children thrive,” **Kathryn Blackshear, President of the Camden City School District Advisory Board of Education**, said. “I am excited Centerville families can now attend classes and receive support from the School District without having to travel across town.”

“Our neighbors are working hard to raise their families and get ahead in life,” **Patricia Gibson, President of the Liberty Park Neighbors Association**, said. “We are excited that new programs are coming to help both parents and our young people succeed. I look forward to working alongside the City and School District to make sure our community gets the most out of this new Parent Partnership.”

“Born to Read is part of the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading led by Center For Family Services to ensure our children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade,” **Merilee Rutolo, Chief Operating Officer, Center For Family Services**, said. “We know this translates to positive outcomes later in life, including improved academic performance, higher high school graduation rates, better job opportunities, and lower crime rates. Through this partnership, CFS will work closely with the District, the Mayor’s office, and other partners to provide one on one reading supports for children and families.”

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