



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD
SUPERINTENDENT

Press contact:

Maita Soukup

Division of Communications

856-375-4737

msoukup@camden.k12.nj.us

PRESS RELEASE

Camden Schools to Offer Students Enriching Summer Opportunities

More than 2,000 students from ages 3-18 expected to spend their summer continuing to learn, grow, and have fun at school

June 5, 2015 – Camden, NJ – To address concerns that urban public school students lose up to three months of reading and math proficiency every summer, Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard is leading an effort to sign up more than 2,000 students in summer enrichment and jobs programs. Students from ages 3-18 have a variety of fun options to stay safe and further their growth this summer:

- The Pre-School Summer Program will operate in 15 locations across the City with developmentally appropriate curricula, daily activities and routines, and free breakfast and lunch.
- Camp Achieve, the District's five-week, half-day summer enrichment program, is available to all Camden City School District students entering grades K – 8 in fall 2015.
- A plethora of partner programs are also available, meaning students can spend their mornings at Camp Achieve and their afternoons in a specialized program learning about aquatics, for instance, or participating in artistic, cultural, and recreational activities.
- Students Working to Access Greatness (SWAG), the District's summer jobs program, is open to middle and high school students as well as recent college graduates.

In addition, the District will offer tailored programs for bilingual students, English Language Learners, high school students, and students with Individual Education Plans.

"Summer shouldn't be synonymous with a stoppage in student learning, and I'm excited to offer students and families a wide range of enriching activities during the summer months," Rouhanifard said. "I appreciate our partners coming forth with complementary offerings, and I strongly encourage parents to sign their children up to participate in any and all available opportunities."

Students attending Camp Achieve will receive free breakfast and lunch each day. The daily program will include classroom-based reading and math enrichment, supplemented by outdoor activities, physical education, and arts and crafts.

In addition to offering the Camp Achieve program, District schools across the City will play host to a wide range of summer education and enrichment programs led by community partners, including Rowan University, Urban Promise, EducationWorks, and the Center for Aquatic Sciences. Students from any school in Camden are invited to participate in this exciting range of opportunities. A full list of partner programs is listed below.

“We look forward to partnering with the school District again this summer to give Camden students the chance to learn hands on about the natural world,” Cheronda Frazier, Director of Summer Programming for the Center for Aquatic Sciences. “Whether we’re outside monitoring local water quality or planning a skit to excite students about the aquatic sciences, our summer programs make science fun and relevant to young people.”

The Preschool Summer Academy offers qualifying parents the opportunity to have their children participate in an extended program from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The District will provide payment for 100 pre-schoolers whose parents may not qualify for financial assistance through the Division of Human Services.

To learn more, and to register in the Pre-School Summer Program, families can go to any participating provider site or the Early Childhood Development Center at 1602 Pine Street. They can also contact Dr. Cheryl Chavis at 856-966-2000, ext. 38321. Families are strongly encouraged to register by Friday, June 12.

To drive enrollment in Camp Achieve, this year the District has been accepting applications both online and on paper. All students in the District received a registration form to Camp Achieve at school. The application, along with additional information about Camp locations, transportation, and partners’ summer program, is available on the District website at www.camden.k12.nj.us/parents/campachieve. The deadline for the paper application has passed, but the online application is being accepted through Monday, June 8.

Camden City School District students or recent graduates ages 14-19 can apply to SWAG, the District’s six-week summer internship program, by [visiting our website](#). The job program promises to build students’ confidence, grow their bank accounts, and provide key workplace-readiness training. Applications are due today, Friday, June 5.

The partners offering community summer programs are listed below:

- Center for Aquatic Sciences, age 4-18, grade pre-k-12
- EducationWorks, age 9-18, grade 4-12
- Center for Family Services, age 4-18, grade pre-k-12 grades
- Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, age 12-18, grade 7-12
- Cooper’s Ferry Connect the Lots Initiative, age 10-13, grade 5-8
- Rowan University, age 14-18, grade 9-12
- Food Bank of South New Jersey, age 7-18, grade 2-12
- Urban Promise, age 6-18, grade 1-12