



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD  
SUPERINTENDENT

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## Camden City School District Superintendent Steps Down after Five Years of Progress in City Schools

**April 11, 2018, Camden, New Jersey** — Today Paymon Rouhanifard submitted his resignation as Superintendent of the Camden City School District to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education. He will work through the end of June to carry out his 90 day notice period.

Over this five years of service to Camden City School District, the Superintendent has maintained a singular focus on dramatically raising achievement in District schools while expanding students' access to high quality neighborhood school options. The Advisory Board and District thank him for five years of dedicated service to Camden's youth, marked by stable leadership and major progress in our schools

Since 2013, the District's dropout rate has been cut in half, reading and math proficiency is rising, and \$336 million in new funding has been invested to improve school facilities. The Board and District administration look forward to continuing the hard work of closing the achievement gap and ensuring every Camden student graduates ready for college or a meaningful career.

See below for a summary of key areas of progress in City schools since Rouhanifard's appointment in August 2013.

- ends -

### Data - Progress in Camden Schools

- The dropout rate is down from 21% in 2012 to 11% last year
- Today just 8 of 18 District schools are in the state's bottom 5% - and 8 additional schools have been transformed into high quality neighborhood renaissance schools. This compares to 23 of 26 schools being in the bottom 5 percent at the time of the state intervention in 2013.
- 53% fewer out-of-school suspensions
- Over 300 high school students earning college credits at Camden County College this year
- 11 new or significantly renovated school building projects launched, 10 of which are serving students this year
- A single, fair enrollment system for families to access most all of the City's publicly-funded schools
- Nearly tripled K-8 math proficiency in three years; and more than doubled proficiency in reading in the same time
  - District and renaissance school students improved from 4.3 percent to 11.4 percent proficient in math since between 2014/15 and 2016/17; ELA proficiency rose from 6.5 to 15.7 percent
  - These schools collectively served more than 10,000 Camden students last year
- A 17 point rise in the district's graduation rate – up from 49% in 2012 to 66% in 2017
- \$336 million investment in school buildings since 2012



- Brand new K-8 schools in the Lanning Square, Whitman Park, and Cramer Hill neighborhoods serving student this year
- Significant building renovations underway in 6 neighborhood schools that had fallen into disrepair
- A \$136 million State investment to rebuild Camden High into a 21<sup>st</sup> century, state of the art high school campus serving 1,200 students by 2021

#### **College and career readiness**

- A 46% increase in SAT participation and 22% increase in PSAT participation
- 300 students taking college-level courses in District high schools
- FAFSA completion up by 77% and college destination tracking systems in place for the first time