CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Initial Camden Enrollment Results Now Available for Students, Families

Hundreds of families able to access results through new, more equitable process

April 21, 2016 – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Families of thousands of students who applied to new schools through the Camden Enrollment system can now access their results, according to an announcement today from Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard. Overall, more than 2,450 students applied in the enrollment system's first year.

Families who applied by the March 1 deadline can log on to <u>CamdenEnrollment.org</u> to see their results. Camden Enrollment is notifying families of their new school results by mailed letter, email, and text message.

Of those families who applied by the March 1 deadline, a significant majority—80 percent—were matched with a seat at one of their top three choices for a new public school for next year. The remaining 20 percent of applicants will receive a seat at one of their target schools if one becomes available. In addition, these applications are receiving individualized support from Family Enrollment Guides and can re-apply to the dozens of Camden charter, District, and renaissance schools with seats still available.

Families who applied after the deadline are expected to receive results later this month.

Families who have not yet applied can still choose a new public school for next year. <u>CamdenEnrollment.org</u> is now updated with school-by-school, grade-by-grade seat <u>availability</u>. Families can explore school options, use a color-coded system to see which schools have seats available in which grades, and then enroll their students through the website or by calling the family enrollment hotline at 856-536-3999. More than 650 students have submitted applications to Camden Enrollment since March 1.

Camden Enrollment is a single, parent-friendly application with a single deadline for all public schools in Camden (in total, 38 District, charter, and renaissance schools). Camden Enrollment replaced the previous patchwork system of 17 different applications with deadlines over a nine-month period.

"We're excited to see how many families took advantage of the new, simple way to choose a great Camden school their child," said Superintendent Rouhanifard. "We look forward to supporting families as they learn their results and begin registering their children in their new schools. I appreciate all public school leaders' collaboration in making this opportunity available to Camden families and in simplifying this long-complicated process."

Participation in Camden Enrollment is voluntary—every Camden student has a guaranteed seat at their neighborhood District school. Furthermore, if families are happy with the school their child currently attends, there is no need to take action—their child can stay at that school.

Camden Enrollment made many efforts to engage families during the main application period. Family Enrollment Guides made over 8,000 direct phone calls to Camden families; knocked on more than 2,500 doors; received more than 700 hotline calls, and interacted with more than 400 people who attended the first Citywide school fair.

Families who received matches have until June 30 to register at their match school. After June 30, their seat could be made available to a student on the waitlist.

Creating a family-friendly enrollment system that gives all parents a fair way to access public schools is part of Promise 4 of Phase Two of the Camden Commitment, the District's school improvement plan.

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Contact Brendan Lowe from the Camden City School District Division of Communications at <u>blowe@camden.k12.nj.us</u> or 856-904-1693 for interviews with Superintendent Rouhanifard.

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