



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD  
SUPERINTENDENT

**CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Camden's Public School Leaders Announce Major Improvements to How Families Enroll Their Children in School**

*Camden Enrollment will streamline current system of 17 applications and multiple deadlines; all District, charter, and renaissance schools plan to participate*

**Tuesday, November 10, 2015** – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard joined parents, Mayor Redd, and leaders from District, charter, and renaissance schools Tuesday to jointly announce major improvements in how Camden families find the best school for their children. Camden Enrollment—a single, simple way for families to learn about and apply to the best public school for their child—will replace the current patchwork system of 17 different applications with deadlines over a nine-month period.

Camden Enrollment comes with a family-friendly guide and website—[www.camdenenrollment.org](http://www.camdenenrollment.org). The guide, the website, and Camden Enrollment itself were all created through a collaborative process with parents and educators. More than 100 students, families, educators, and residents shared formal feedback over the course of five community meetings in the summer and fall. Representatives from the 38 District, charter, and renaissance schools who met over many months further shaped this joint initiative.

Said Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard: “As a parent, I know that finding the right school for my child is absolutely critical. As Superintendent, I know that helping parents access the best option for their child will benefit students and schools. I’m grateful that our partners and our community have come together to develop a system that ensures all schools serve all our students and families.”

Families’ participation in Camden Enrollment is voluntary—all Camden students still have 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 is for families whose children are entering kindergarten or 9<sup>th</sup>-grade, families who are new to Camden City, or any family looking for another public school option.

For these families, a single, parent-friendly application with a single deadline for the 38 District, charter, and renaissance schools planning to participate will go live on January 5 (see full list below). Families will be able to visit neighborhood enrollment centers, speak with enrollment specialists by phone, and attend school fairs to

learn more about the best options for their child. Applications, which include up to 10 schools in ranked order, must be submitted by Tuesday, March 1.

“Parents know their children best, and they deserve support in making a well-informed decision about which school is best for their child,” said Mayor Dana L. Redd. “Camden Enrollment provides valuable resources for parents, and I applaud our school leaders for coming together to develop this new system with community input. My team and I are committed to working with all Camden public schools to make sure parents have the support they need to access this new system.”

Applications will be available online and in paper, in English and in Spanish. In-person and phone support will be available. The Camden Enrollment Hotline, which opens today, is 856-536-3999.

“I am proud to stand alongside educators from across the City who are dedicated to giving every Camden child access to a quality education,” said Joseph Conway, founder of Camden’s Charter School Network. “We are confident that this partnership through Camden Enrollment will help more families give their kids access to the high-quality education every child deserves.”

All students can participate in Camden Enrollment; students with special needs and bilingual students will receive individualized outreach to make sure their school choices support their learning needs. In addition, Camden Enrollment offers preferences for families that want siblings to stay together in the same school.

Under Camden Enrollment, starting in September 2016 the Camden City School District will provide transportation to District schools more than two miles from a student’s home, a service currently offered only to charter and renaissance school students.

School placements for participating students are expected to be announced in April 2016.

Creating a family-friendly enrollment system that gives all families a fair way to access public schools is part of Promise 4 of [All Schools Rise: Phase Two of the Camden Commitment](#), the District’s school improvement plan.

*Contact Brendan Lowe from the Camden City School District Division of Communications at [blowe@camden.k12.nj.us](mailto:blowe@camden.k12.nj.us) or 856-904-1693 for photos and video from today’s announcement and interviews with Superintendent Rouhanifard and other officials.*

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## **38 Camden Public Schools are Planning to Participate in Camden Enrollment**

### **Charter**

1. Camden Academy Charter High School
2. Camden Community Charter School
3. Camden's Pride Elementary School
4. Camden's Promise Middle School
5. Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School
6. Freedom Prep Charter School
7. Hope Community Charter School
8. Katz-Dalsey Academy Charter School
9. LEAP University Charter School \*

### **District**

1. Alfred Cramer College Preparatory Lab School
2. Camden High School
3. Charles Sumner Elementary School
4. Cooper B. Hatch Family School
5. Cooper's Poynt Family School
6. Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy
7. Dr. Charles E. Brimm Medical Arts High School
8. Dr. Henry H. Davis Elementary School
9. Dr. U.S. Wiggins College Preparatory Lab School
10. Early Childhood Development Center
11. Forest Hill School
12. H.B. Wilson Family School
13. Harry C. Sharp Family School
14. Henry L. Bonsall Family School
15. J.G. Whittier Family School
16. Met East High School
17. Octavius V. Catto Family School
18. R.T. Cream Family School
19. Thomas H. Dudley Family School
20. Veterans Memorial Family School
21. Woodrow Wilson High School
22. Yorkship Elementary School

### **Renaissance**

1. KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy
2. Mastery: Cramer Hill Elementary
3. Mastery: East Camden Middle
4. Mastery: McGraw Elementary
5. Mastery: Molina Elementary
6. Mastery: North Camden Elementary
7. Uncommon Camden Prep

*\*Participation tentative, pending Board approval*