



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD  
SUPERINTENDENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Rouhanifard Announces Community Benefit Agreements between Renaissance Schools and Camden Neighborhoods

*New opportunities for students, families, and residents*

**Monday, February 8, 2016** – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard joined Mayor Redd, community leaders, and educators this afternoon to announce three new community benefit agreements that will support residents across the City. The agreements, which were brokered by the District between renaissance school leaders and community groups, mean renaissance schools will expand their neighborhood-focused approach by committing additional resources to family programming, ensuring community access to their newly constructed and renovated buildings, and giving local residents preference for jobs and contracts.

Camden’s three renaissance schools—KIPP, Mastery, and Camden Prep—will prioritize the hiring of local Camden residents and will guarantee an interview for qualified candidates when filling open positions. In addition, each will offer adult education classes such as financial literacy workshops and legal seminars.

Recognizing the crucial role a community plays in the success of any school, the renaissance schools have committed to expanding the programs offered to area residents. For example, KIPP will coordinate volunteer projects to benefit the Lanning Square and Cooper Plaza communities. Mastery will provide cancer-screening workshops for women within the school and surrounding community. And Camden Prep will partner with United Neighbors of Whitman Park and other service-oriented organizations to host several community events annually, including participation in the Whitman Park Little League.

“When we talk about neighborhood schools, we mean truly serving the community,” said Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard. “Today’s agreements are another positive step forward in this important mission and build on the significant work renaissance schools already have underway. I appreciate the educators and the community leaders coming together to support these opportunities that will benefit students, families, and residents all over Camden.”

Additional benefits of the agreements include KIPP establishing a school-based resource center to provide community members with computer access, and Uncommon and Mastery both working with community groups to make their gyms available for neighborhood events.

“Great neighborhood public schools are a foundation of strong communities,” said Mayor Dana Redd. “We welcome the renaissance school partners’ ongoing commitment to opening their doors outside of school hours to the communities they serve. Working together, we can provide young people and their families with the activities, supports, and resources necessary to thrive.”

Partnering with successful renaissance school organizations to expand the number of high-quality neighborhood schools is part of Promise 3 of [Phase Two of the Camden Commitment](#), the District’s school improvement plan.

“The Board has always fought to maintain strong relationships between our schools and the neighborhoods they serve,” said Camden City School District Board of Education President Kathryn Blackshear. “Since coming to Camden, our renaissance school partners have consistently shown that they share the Board’s commitment to after-school programs and family-friendly activities. These new agreements are a welcome sign of renaissance schools’ sustained commitment to Camden’s children and families.”

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*Contact Maita Soukup from the Camden City School District Division of Communications at [msoukup@camden.k12.nj.us](mailto:msoukup@camden.k12.nj.us) or 856-375-4737 for photos and video from today’s announcement and interviews with Superintendent Rouhanifard and other officials.*

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