



PCSD awarded nearly \$1 million to support literacy efforts



Two new programs, made possible through a nearly \$1 million [My Brother's Keeper Challenge Grant](#) from New York State, will help bring young students up to grade level in reading and provide financial literacy education. The grant will support programming until June of 2027. The Rising Pioneers program will provide

targeted support to students in grades kindergarten through third grade via after school programs at each elementary school — including, for the first time, the Early Learning Center. The purpose of the Rising program is to ensure that students are reading at grade level on or about age 8. The grant will fund training and additional resources for the district teachers who participate.

"The materials will be culturally responsive to the interests of the students who will be participating in the program," Director of Elementary Education Janet Bisti said, adding that the program also incorporates field trips for the students.

They will attend a performance on Broadway, go to Shadowbox Theater which helps students write and perform their own play, and visit Dia: Beacon. "The field trips were chosen to help students expand literacy and cultural understanding."

PCSD is partnering with the Leadership Program, who will provide its Boys to Mentors program for the financial literacy aspect of the grant as well as a series of workshops for parents. This program targets minority boys in third through fifth grades to help them "develop and practice personal financial skills intended to help them achieve and maintain a lifetime of financial wellbeing" in a project-based learning structure.



Patrice Woods, Supervisor of Elementary Education, shared that the parent workshops will provide them with tools and strategies to help their children as well as themselves. Sessions planned include:

- Common sense: How to manage your own finances.
- Call to action: Advocating for your child.
- Tech tools: Learn to use Google classroom etc.
- Job prep: Helping parents prepare for getting a job.

In total, the two programs are expected to provide support for about 220 students in the literacy area and 20 students in the financial literacy area.

Teachers are being asked to recommend students they believe will benefit from the program. Bisti and Woods will then send invitations to those parents to have their children participate. If there is space available, enrollment will be opened to others. The program is expected to begin in November. For information or to enroll a child, please contact [Bisti](#) or [Woods](#).

Superintendent Conference Day welcomes staff back for the 23-24 school year

With the start of the new academic year being a day away, the Poughkeepsie City School District welcomed staff back Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

At the start of the day, Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools released a [video message](#), welcoming everyone back, highlighting how the “start of a new year is always an exciting time full of positive energy and optimism on how we will advance the academic, social, emotional, and wellness success of all Poughkeepsie City School District Children.” His message thanked staff for their dedication and contributions to PCSD students noting that the collaborative work underway in Poughkeepsie “is evident in the continued progress we are making to prepare them for the future.” [Warring Elementary School achieving NYSED “Good Standing”](#) status was referenced as one of the many examples on how together, “we champion student success here in Poughkeepsie City School District”. In closing, Dr. Rosser stated that he “is looking forward to this school year and witnessing what we will accomplish together on behalf of our children and families. We return, advancing year 4 of our [5-year Strategic Plan](#), with the same steadfast commitment to children we embraced when we started this journey in 2019”.

At 8:15am, staff logged in virtually to participate in a morning of professional learning. In the afternoon, each school held Faculty Meetings and instructional staff were able to set up google classrooms and their individual instructional spaces.

Day Two, September 6, 2023 faculty and staff participated in day-long targeted professional learning and opportunities to prepare the instructional spaces for students return on September 7, 2023. To view the Superintendent Conference Days Schedule click [here](#).



Morse Elementary teachers gather in the library to engage in Magnetic Reading with Curriculum Associates.



Poughkeepsie High School's new freshmen learn about the bell schedule during an orientation session.

PHS welcomes Class of 2027

Ninth graders had a chance to visit Poughkeepsie High School and learn about what to expect as freshmen during orientation sessions held last week.

Students learned about the bell schedule, expectations of students, attendance, safety and security and more during sessions held in the auditorium.

In total, about 276 are in the PHS Class of 2027.

In addition to hearing from counselors and administrators, students were able to meet some staff who greeted them at tables.

Parents were also given information to register for the Parent Portal.