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**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AWARDED FUNDING FOR CHROMEBOOKS TO  
HELP KEEP THE DIGITAL DIVIDE CLOSED**

*POWER Foundation, a nonprofit affiliated with a national engineering firm donates funds*

PATERSON – Paterson Public Schools officials today thanked representatives of the POWER Foundation for arranging a donation of \$3,750 to be used for the purchase of Chromebooks for district students. The POWER Foundation is affiliated with consulting engineering firm POWER Engineers Incorporated, which has an office in Oradell.

“All of us at Paterson Public Schools are grateful for this grant and we want to thank everyone at the POWER Foundation for making it possible,” said Deputy Superintendent of Schools Susana Perón. “We overcame many obstacles to close the digital divide in our district, but we still need the support this funding provides. It is our goal to have all of our students working on the same type of device. By purchasing Chromebooks for all of our students, we can close that equity gap and make sure they get the quality education they deserve. This funding brings us closer to meeting that goal.”

“All of us in the engineering and consulting industry know the importance of investing in the future,” said Jim Haynes, POWER’s CAO and president of the POWER Foundation. “Ensuring a bright future means supporting students in this crisis, so as many of them as possible can have one.”

The grant to Paterson Public Schools will purchase 12 Chromebooks and is one of approximately 40 grants the POWER Foundation plans to award in the next few months in an effort to reach the communities where the company’s team members live and work. Recipients are nominated by local POWER employees and grants are focused on schools with a high percentage of students from low-income households.

In August, Paterson Public Schools officials were racing against time to make sure all 29,000 students had a device in time for the first day of school. The Board of Education had already

decided that students would engage entirely in remote learning in the 2020-2021 school year when the district learned that Chromebooks that were ordered in June would not be delivered until October. This was due to one of the vendor's suppliers in China facing federal sanctions for human rights allegations.

The district overcame these significant obstacles by refurbishing 6,000 devices to perform many of the same functions as Chromebooks. Ultimately, the district wants to provide every student with the same Chromebook device.

**About Paterson Public Schools:** Paterson Public Schools serves 29,000 students pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. While the Paterson community may be classified as a low-income, many of its students are high-achieving. More elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and taking college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools stands out as one of only 17 districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program, and one of only four districts with a P-TECH high school, a program that, in collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, graduates students with an associate degree in applied science and practical tech sector experience.

**About the POWER Foundation:** POWER has actively supported the communities in which the company's employees live and work since it was founded in 1976. In 2013, the company formalized its commitment by creating the POWER Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that allows the company to actively support science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM). The foundation allows POWER to think globally and act locally, inspiring a love of STEAM in future generations.

**About POWER Engineers:** POWER Engineers is a global consulting engineering firm specializing in the delivery of integrated solutions for energy, food and beverage facilities, environmental and federal markets. POWER Engineers offers complete multidiscipline engineering and program management services. Founded in 1976, it is an employee-owned company with more than 2,800 employees and 45 offices throughout the United States and abroad.

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