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Bragen named interim schools chief

Cheryl Makin
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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

OLD BRIDGE – The Board of Education has chosen a former Middlesex County administrator to become its interim schools chief.
Bernard Bragen Jr., formerly the superintendent of schools in Edison, will



Bragen

officially take over in Old Bridge on Sept. 1. He replaces David Cittadino who left the district in June after 20 years to become the superintendent of schools in Wayne.
Bragen, who received approval by the school board with one abstention, resigned

from his post July 11 as superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools in Christiansburg, Virginia. He left Edison for Virginia in 2022.
“I am deeply humbled and honored to have been appointed as the Interim Superintendent of Schools for Old Bridge Public Schools,” Bragen wrote in a letter to the community dated July 22. “Old Bridge holds a special place in my heart

and I am both excited and committed to working collaboratively to ensure the continued academic and personal success of every student in our care. I recognize the outstanding reputation of this district and the dedication of the professionals who serve our students each day. It is a privilege to join this

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Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma celebrates after his team won a semifinal match in the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup at MetLife Stadium. The event was considered a dry run for the 2026 World Cup, in which eight matches will take place at the stadium. VINCENT CARCHIETTA/IMAGN IMAGES

How large could the 2026 FIFA World Cup’s economic impact be?

Katie Sobko
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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is less than a year away and new revenue projections released by the regional host committee indicate the tournament is expected to generate \$3.3 billion for the region.
Eight matches — including the final — will take place at MetLife Stadium in

East Rutherford and are expected to draw millions of tourists to New Jersey and New York.
The matches held in East Rutherford are being coordinated under the auspices of a partnership between New Jersey and New York City. Garden State taxpayers have, so far, fronted more than \$207 million for stadium upgrades, transit improvements and a loan for the host committee. New York has not yet contributed anything to

ward those costs.
The impact on the region is expected to include about 26,000 jobs, \$1.3 billion in wages, \$432 million in tax revenue and \$1.7 billion in direct spending, according to a study conducted by the host committee. That study was carried out in partnership with Tourism Economics, which is owned by Oxford Economics.

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Piscataway man shot and killed in Irvington

Suzanne Russell
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The Essex County Prosecutor’s Office Homicide Task Force is investigating after a 42-year-old Piscataway man was shot and killed in Irvington earlier this week.
Anwar Jackson was pronounced dead at the scene of the Union Avenue shooting, according to Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II.
Irvington police received reports around 10 p.m. July 21 of shots fired and a man down in the area of 100 Union Ave. Arriving officers found Jackson in the street with multiple gunshot wounds, the prosecutor said.
The investigation is continuing and no additional details are being released at this time.
Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. All calls will be kept confidential.

Ciattarelli taps Gannon as running mate

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Republican gubernatorial nominee Jack Ciattarelli announced that Morris County Sheriff James Gannon will join him on the ticket as the lieutenant

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