



Season-opening high school football picks and predictions

SPORTS, 1B

The Journal News

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 | LOHUD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Districts are adding pre-K seats

Mid-Hudson region will see some of largest gains

Emily Barnes

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York's Mid-Hudson region school districts will see some of the largest gains in additional free pre-K seats through funding approved in this year's state budget, according to Gov. Kathy Hochul's office.

More than half of all public school districts in New York now have thousands of newly available universal pre-K, or UPK, spots as part of Hochul's recent \$560 million push toward UPK, Hochul announced on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

And while focus has mainly been on expanding pre-K and childcare services in New York City, the rest of the state is set to benefit from the additional funding as well. The state's plan is to ensure

statewide UPK by the start of the 2028-2029 school year.

"I'll never stop fighting to lower costs for families – and our historic investment has already delivered thousands more free pre-K seats statewide, with tens of thousands more in the coming years," Hochul said. "As New York's first mom governor, putting us on the path to statewide universal pre-K was personal for me – and I'm ensuring that we will deliver on that promise."

Here's a closer look at the numbers.

How many free pre-K seats will local school districts have in NY?

Since school districts across the state are still finalizing their enrollment numbers ahead of the 2026-2027 school year, specific seat numbers aren't yet available, the governor's office says. South Huntington School District on Long Island, however, can now

See PRE-K SEATS, Page 3A



New York's Mid-Hudson region will have some of the most school districts offering additional free pre-K seats this year through funding approved in this year's state budget, according to Gov. Kathy Hochul's office.

TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS



New York State Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner DaMia Harris-Madden discusses the state's 2027 budget and a boost for the Childcare Assistance Program, or CCAP, on Aug. 31, at the Martin Luther King Multi-purpose Center in Spring Valley. NANCY CUTLER/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Leader talks childcare aid in Spring Valley

Visit comes after NAACP sought information

Nancy Cutler

Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRING VALLEY – Concerns about access to early childhood programs for children living in and around East Ramapo school district spurred local NAACP leaders to invite a state official back to Rockland County.

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner DaMia

Harris-Madden joined dozens of community leaders on Aug. 31 at the Martin Luther King Multi-purpose Center.

It was the second time Harris-Madden, who holds a key position in the administration of Gov. Kathy Hochul, had come to Ramapo in less than two months to explain investments in young children and families in the 2027 state budget.

In July, she visited the Monsey-based Community Outreach Center to discuss the state's 2027 budget and a boost for the Childcare Assistance

See CHILDCARE, Page 3A

Providers and elected officials said many local childcare programs were unaware they could register to accept CCAP vouchers, which can cap the cost of childcare at \$15 a week for those who qualify.

Putnam project to bolster economy

Road improvement expected to aid progress

Thomas C. Zambito

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The completion of a \$1.4 million road improvement project at a major intersection in Putnam County will clear the path to millions of dollars in economic development in the years to come, state officials say.

The addition of traffic lights and wider turning lanes at the intersection of State Route 311 and Interstate 84 in Patterson stalled during the pandemic. It was then jump started with the help of state grants secured by State Sen. Pete Harchkham and Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Senate's majority leader.

On one side of the intersection, a developer has plans for a retail complex known as Patterson Crossing and on the other will be the Patterson Inn hotel. The two projects are expected to deliver \$13 million in annual sales tax revenue once they open.

"This \$1.415 million investment at Route 311 and I-84 is already paying dividends for Patterson," Stewart-Cousins said. "It sets the stage for what's coming next for this corridor, from Patterson Crossing to the Patterson Inn, and the hundreds of jobs and millions in new tax revenue these projects will bring."

Hotel, retail space planned

Paterson Crossing, on route 311 west of I-84, is expected to generate 50 construction jobs and over 500 full and part-time jobs. The Paterson Inn, east of I-84, will deliver 60 construction jobs and over 100 hotel, restaurant and retail jobs.

See PUTNAM, Page 3A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to lohud.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 138 | No. 103
Subscribe: 800-942-1010
©2026 \$3.49

