



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **American Paradigm Schools Respects Educators & Supports Staff of Memphis Street Academy**

*School Urges District to Use 2026-2027 School Year as Formal Transition Year; Advocates for Transparency, Stability, and Student-Centered Process*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 3, 2026)** — Memphis Street Academy Charter School at JP Jones (MSA), a North Philadelphia charter school serving more than 500 students, today announced a comprehensive staff transition plan and highlighted the breadth of services and support provided to students, families, and the Port Richmond community ahead of the School District of Philadelphia's planned takeover of the school facility.

Despite heavy resistance, the District is preparing to reopen the school as a district-operated campus beginning in August. American Paradigm Schools (APS), the nonprofit charter management organization operating MSA, has developed a detailed contingency staffing plan to ensure that MSA's dedicated educators and staff have a path forward. Under the plan, MSA employees will be offered positions within other APS schools, preserving institutional knowledge and continuity for staff who have committed years to serving the school's students and community.

"Our staff has shown up every single day for our students and families, and we are committed to showing up for them in return," said Steven M. Bilski, CEO and Principal of Memphis Street Academy. "We have a plan in place to ensure absolutely no employee is left without options, and that the talent and dedication defining Memphis Street Academy continues to benefit students across our network."

Beyond its academic programming, MSA has long served as a critical community anchor in North Philadelphia, providing a wide range of services extending far beyond the classroom. Among the services MSA has offered to students and families:

- Health center access services, providing on-site medical support to students and families
- Food and nutrition programs, ensuring students have access to healthy meals
- English language access services, supporting the school's large population of English language learners and their families
- Athletics and extracurricular programming, offering students opportunities for growth, teamwork, and belonging



- Social and emotional learning (SEL) support through APS's Caring School Community model, which has driven a 90% reduction in school violence since APS assumed management of the school
- Community activities and events that have made MSA a hub for the Port Richmond neighborhood

MSA serves a student body that is 96% students of color, the majority of whom identify as Hispanic, Black, or Multi-racial. The school has continued to deliver these services throughout the transition process, and leadership has committed to maintaining all programming through the end of the current school year.

"Memphis Street Academy has never just been a school — it has been a lifeline for this community," said Bilski. "From health services to food programs to the emotional support our students need to thrive, we have built something meaningful here. We are proud of what our team has accomplished, and we are doing everything in our power to ensure our students and staff are fully supported."

MSA continues to request that the School District of Philadelphia use the 2026-2027 school year as a formal transition year to allow for an orderly, student-centered handoff and is awaiting the District's determination.

### **About American Paradigm Schools**

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit [www.ap-schools.org](http://www.ap-schools.org).

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

### **Media Contact:**

Katie Kennedy, Gregory  
610-731-1045 (cell)  
[aps@gregoryagency.com](mailto:aps@gregoryagency.com)

###