

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2025**

**RESOLUTION            4848**

**FOR ACTION**

**SUBJECT:                PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUTGERS ENGAGED SCIENCE  
                              (CARES) PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Community and Rutgers Engaged Science (CARES) at Rutgers University–Newark is dedicated to increasing the representation of diverse populations in scientific research to ensure that our understanding of human development is both accurate and culturally responsive; and

**WHEREAS**, CARES partners with local schools and organizations to provide students with meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities such as field trips, guided lab tours, and participation in noninvasive research studies; and

**WHEREAS**, through this partnership, South Orange–Maplewood School District students will have the opportunity to engage with Rutgers faculty and graduate students, gain exposure to psychological science, and explore college and career pathways in STEM; and

**WHEREAS**, the CARES initiative also ensures that families from underrepresented backgrounds are given opportunities to participate in inclusive research that reflects their lived experiences;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Orange–Maplewood Board of Education formally recognizes and supports the district’s partnership with the Rutgers Engaged Science (CARES) program and looks forward to the educational enrichment, research opportunities, and community connections this collaboration will bring to our students and families.