



For Immediate Release: December 18, 2025

Media Contact: Brendan O’Riordan, 585-353-6390, Brendan.O’Riordan@rcsdk12.org

Rochester Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to Honor State Champion James Monroe High School Football Team

Who:

Rochester Board of Education members

Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, Superintendent of Schools

Student-athletes and coaches from the James Monroe High School Red Jackets football team

What:

Recognition of the James Monroe High School Red Jackets football team as New York State champions

When:

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 6 p.m.

Where:

RCSD Central Office

131 West Broad Street

Rochester, NY 14614

Details:

The Rochester City School District Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Eric J. Rosser will honor the James Monroe High School Red Jackets football team during tonight’s Board of Education meeting. The team will receive a trophy and certificates commemorating their New York State championship victory on Saturday, December 6, at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse.

The Red Jackets defeated Westchester County’s Sleepy Hollow, 34–0, to complete a perfect 12–0 season. The title marks the first time an RCSD team has won a state football championship since the New York State tournament began in 1993.

“This championship is more than a trophy; it’s a symbol of pride, perseverance, and the spirit of our community,” said Dr. Eric J. Rosser, Superintendent of Schools. “The journey of the Red Jackets reflects what students can accomplish when they are supported, encouraged, and challenged.”

The team’s impact extends well beyond the football field. Led by University of Oregon football commit Messiah Hampton, one of the top players to emerge from Section V, the Red Jackets have consistently prioritized service, community involvement, and athletic success.

Hampton has contributed to Changing the Community, a local program that offers athletic and community-based opportunities for young people while emphasizing academic performance and life skills. Following their Section V championship win in November against Honeoye Falls–Lima, team members organized and supported a Thanksgiving outreach effort, helping to provide meals to individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Rochester.

For the past three years, Hampton and his teammates have also volunteered at the Rochester Public Market during Halloween, distributing candy to children and engaging with families throughout the community.

Earlier this week, the City of Rochester recognized the team during a ceremony at City Hall, where Mayor Malik Evans presented head coach Terrell Cunningham with the Mayor's Cup, a symbolic honor equivalent to a key to the city. Several Monroe student-athletes were also named 2025 All-Greater Rochester Fall Athletes by the *Democrat and Chronicle*.