

Rochester Board of Education

Roc BOE News



Board Goals: September 2023 to June 2028

Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who are proficient on the NYS ELA assessment from 16% to 40%.

All students reading by third grade –Increase the percentage of students proficient on the 3rd grade NYS ELA from 15% to 50%.

Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who are proficient on the NYS Math assessment from 14% to 40%.

Increase the number of students earning 5 or more credits in 9th grade from 70% to 90%.

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President's Desk

The Rochester Board of Education is pleased to welcome Commissioners Heather Feinman and Kareem McCullough. We look forward to the experience, talent, and fresh perspectives they bring as we continue our work on behalf of our students and community.

At the center of every decision we make is our commitment to the academic success, well-being, and future opportunities of every RCSD student.

We are deeply appreciative of the dedication and hard work of RCSD employees, whose commitment supports our students and families every day. We want to share that Superintendent Rosser has invited our RAP, BENTE, and RTA collective bargaining units to engage in discussions as part of the collective bargaining process. Collaboration remains es-

sential as we move forward together.

As we enter budget season, we are optimistic about Governor Hochul's direct investment in early childhood literacy, which we believe will help strengthen reading outcomes for our students here in Rochester.

Finally, please know that your voices matter. I encourage staff, students, and families to sign up to speak at upcoming Board of Education speaker forums and to look for details about my upcoming office hours. We welcome your continued engagement and partnership.
With Gratitude,

Camille Simmons
Board President



Student Outcomes Focused Governance

Student Outcomes do not change until adult behaviors change.

What is progress monitoring ?

Progress monitoring is a conversation between the Board and Superintendent that provides the Board the opportunity to evaluate the alignment between the community's vision (goals towards student outcomes) and the District's reality (current student performance/growth).

How is monitoring beneficial?

Effective monitoring helps the Board and Superintendent stay focused on student success in four key ways.

- **Lead by Example:** The Board models reflection and data-informed decision-making.

- **Clarify Strategies:** Progress data helps guide timely adjustments.
- **Communicate Expectations:** By dedicating at least 50% of the Board's monthly meeting time to monitoring progress toward the District's vision, priorities are clearly communicated systemwide.
- **Formative Evaluation:** Ongoing feedback from the Board to the Superintendent supports continuous improvement beyond annual reviews.

During Monitoring

Monitoring is about understanding how reality matches the Board's adopted goals. Monitoring is never about offering advice or recommendations. The Board's curiosity

is focused on what's true for students, not on what adults are/aren't doing. Monitoring questions start with "who", "what", "why", and "how".

Example Questions:

- Who is not included in this data?
- What did we learn from this?
- Why was there no growth?
- How can the Board help?

Evaluating the Quality of Monitoring

After completing monitoring, the Board should identify a tool to help with reflecting on its performance.

For more information about the Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG) framework, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/sofg>.

DID YOU KNOW....

The Superintendent develops the school year budget, and the Board votes to adopt it after extensive deliberation and a public hearing.



DID YOU KNOW....

The Board's work includes oversight of the District's budget to ensure transparency and responsible use of public resources.



Advisory Group Corner

Get Involved in District-wide Advisory Groups!

Are you a **current** RCSD student or parent? Are you aware that there are three District-wide parent groups and one District-wide student group?

For Students

The Student Leadership Congress (SLC) is a body of student leaders representing their respective high schools and serves as the voice of students to the Board of Education, Superintendent, District administration, and community leaders. Participating members offer their perspectives on education policies, school climate and

inform their administrators about relevant citywide school issues. For more information, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/youth>.

For Parents

District-wide groups offer parents and caregivers a space to engage in advocacy and support their children's education. Most parent groups meet monthly.

District-wide parent groups include:

1. Bilingual Education Council (BEC)
2. Parent Leadership Advisory

Council (PLAC)

3. Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

For more information about each District-wide group, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/parentgroups>, or contact the Office of Parent Engagement by emailing parentcenter@rcsdk12.org or calling 585-324-9999.

To learn more about participating in a school-based student or parent group, contact your school.



Public Hearings

About Public Hearings

The Board of Education shall schedule public hearings in accordance with the law and on occasions when it wishes to gather information and seek opinions on important issues affecting the Rochester City School District (RCSD). The Board shall take no formal action at a public hearing. Typically, public hearings are noticed to the public at least 10 school days prior to the public hearing, this does not include charter school hearings as they are noticed as received. The time and place of the hearings shall be designated in the notice of the hearing.

Annually, the Board hold public hearings on the following areas: **Budget, Charter Schools, Code of Conduct (Policy 1400), Contract for Excellence, Districtwide School Safety Plan, and State Monitor's Academic & Fiscal Plans.** The Board may hold public hearings on other topics as needed.

How to Participate

An individual may register to speak and/or submit a written comment by contacting the Board of Education office by noon on the day of the public hearing, by calling (585) 262-8525 or emailing publichearing@rcsdk12.org. The following information must be included:

name, telephone number, email address, home address, and affiliation (student, parent, community member or staff). Excluding staff, individuals who do not reside within the City of Rochester do not have the privilege of speaking and/or submitting written comments at meetings, except when exception is granted by the chair of the forum.

To view public hearing policies and procedure, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/policy>:

- ♦ Policy 2390, Public Hearings;
- ♦ Exhibit, 2390-E1, Public Hearings Procedure; and
- ♦ Policy 6120, Budget Hearing.



Budget Process

Budget Policy (Policy 6110)

The Board of Education will annually approve a specific budget calendar developed by the Chief Financial Officer and recommended by the Superintendent in accordance with exhibit 6110-E1, Budget Timeframe.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer, will develop a multiyear long-range plan, including plans for budget presentation in both a program-based and school unit format. It will be reviewed annually with the Board of Education as part of the budget process.

The budget for the ensuing school year shall be thoroughly reviewed by the Board of Education in no less than two (2) meetings to convene for the purpose of a budget deliberation. Following this review, the Board will adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year in accordance with policy 6130 for subsequent submission to the City of Rochester for inclusion in their budget submission to City Council.

For the full policy, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/policy>.

For more information on the budget process, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/budget>.

2026-27 Budget Meetings

The Board will hold the following meetings to engage in the 2026-2027 school year budget process:

1st Budget Deliberation Session
Tuesday, April 14th at 6pm

Budget Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 21st at 5:30pm

2nd Budget Deliberation Session
Tuesday, April 28th at 6pm

Board Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 5th at 6pm

The adopted budget book is scheduled to be published on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence”.

- Helen Keller

Can Someone Please HELP ME?!

Often times our District families, staff, and community reach out to the Board Office, a Board member, and/or register to speak at a Board meeting because they do not know who to call, or they feel unseen or stuck. **FRUSTRATION!**

While the Board and its Board department are always happy to assist our families, going directly to the District staff who can resolve the issue is often the fastest way to get help. The right connection makes all the difference.

When you are not sure where to start, here are two resources available to you:

RCSD Family Services:

When our families have an issue or concern, we want to provide you with a clear method for communicating those concerns. We ask that you follow the process outlined on <https://www.rcsdk12.org/familyservices>, which provides the appropriate steps to take for most school-related issues.

Let's Talk!

Customer Service Platform:

The District is utilizing Let's Talk! to help create new lines of communication for school and District services for parents, staff, students, and our community to access anytime, anywhere. Visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/letstalk> for more information on the Let's Talk! platform.

Clear communication helps us resolve concerns faster, so we can stay focused on what matters most—our students' success.



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