

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

Welcome Back to School!

On behalf of the Rochester Board of Education, I warmly welcome all students, families, teachers, and amazing support staff to a new school year. Each September brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen our community. Our schools are places of discovery, creativity, and connection, and we are committed to supporting every student's success.

We deeply appreciate our educators and staff for their dedication and thank families for partnering with us. Together, we possess the ability to form a powerful network that uplifts every learner.

As we begin this year, let's embrace curiosity, kindness, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. The future is bright because of the potential within each of our students.

Welcome back scholars! Let's make it a great year! Remember to **"Strive for Five - Show Up Strong, 5 Days Long!"**

With Gratitude,

Camille Simmons
Board President



DID YOU KNOW....

The Rochester Board of Education is made up of seven Commissioners that each serve four year terms and are elected by the citizens of the City of Rochester.



Commissioner Corner

Shifting the Focus: Governing for Student Outcomes

By Amy Maloy, Board Vice President

Over the past year, the Board of Education has been implementing the **Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG)** model. With guidance from our SOFG coaches, we've taken meaningful steps to clarify the distinct roles of the Superintendent and the Board.

During this summer's retreats, commissioners focused on aligning responsibilities and reaffirming that the Board's role is not to manage daily operations, but to hold ourselves accountable for progress toward clearly defined

student goals.

At the heart of this work is a central concept: **student outcomes are the measurable skills and knowledge our students gain**. To reflect this priority, at least **50% of our meetings** will be dedicated to analyzing and discussing student outcome data related to these outcomes.

A major milestone has been the launch of **community listening sessions**, where commissioners hear directly from families and

stakeholders about their values, priorities, and aspirations. This feedback will shape the next step in our governance work—the development of **guardrails**, which have clear limits on administrative decision-making that keep initiatives aligned with community vision and values.

As commissioners, we remain committed to this model, knowing that, *"Student outcomes do not change until adult behaviors change."*

Student Outcomes Focused Governance

Student Outcomes do not change until adult behaviors change.

What is the SOFG model?

On March 28, 2024, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Student Outcome Focused Governance (SOFG) framework with the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS). The SOFG framework is a research-based and systematic approach to school board governance and leadership. It provides the Board with the tools to identify its strengths and areas of improvements, and track progress to

improving student outcomes, including accountability for the Board and Superintendent.

The framework is built around six competencies that describe school board behaviors and the conditions needed to improve in student outcomes. These six competencies include:

1. Vision & Goals
2. Values & Guardrails
3. Monitoring & Accountability
4. Communication & Collaboration
5. Unity & Trust
6. Continuous Improvement

What is the Board currently working on?

The Board is scheduled to complete listening sessions by August 30, 2025 to inform future District plans. For listening session dates, refer to the District's Facebook page.

What are next steps for the Board?

Stay tuned for the vision and development of the Board's goals and guardrails.

Advisory Group Corner

Get Involved in District-wide Advisory Groups!

Are you a **current** RCSD student or parent? Are you aware that the Board has three parent and one student District-wide sanctioned groups?

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

There are many District-wide sanctioned parent groups for parents and caregivers to participate in to assist them with advocacy for their child's education. Most parent groups meet monthly.

District-wide sanctioned 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 the school.



Policy Review Process

The Board is legally required to adopt policies that guide the District's administration, instruction, student rights, fiscal management, and more. These include policies mandated by law, those recommended as best practice, and others specific to the District. The Superintendent is responsible for carrying out these policies, which may include developing regulations that outline the procedures for their implementation.

Policies Under Review

The Board reviews its policies continuously with the help of advisory groups, the Superintendent,

District content experts, and other stakeholders.

Policies under review by the Board will be discussed during a public Board meeting, typically starting at work sessions. Policies under review follow the process outlined in policy 2410, Policy Management, that essentially includes a three month review and reading process for the Board to vote to adopt, amend or rescind a policy.

The public can provide feedback to policies under review at a Speaker Forum or written comments by emailing boardofeducation@rcsdk12.org.

Visit <https://rcsdk12.org/boarddocs> to follow the policies under review and for the policy review process.

Policies Not Under Review

Have policy recommendations for a new policy or existing policy not under review? The public can submit written feedback by completing exhibit 2410-E1, Criteria for Policy Analysis. For exhibit 2410-E1, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/2410e1>.



Code of Conduct

The Board amended policy 1400 on June 26, 2025.

The Code of Conduct is the product of a collaborative effort by parents, students, teachers, District staff, and community members seeking to make classrooms and schools in the Rochester City School District safe, supportive, and joyful environments for teaching and learning.

School culture and climate affect everyone in a school community. By creating supportive and welcoming communities, we ground the lives of every community

member in the values we all care about, a quality education for all students and a supportive and positive school environment for students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators. Such grounding for all creates a profound impact upon students, both in their academic progress and their relationships with peers and adults. It deeply enhances the quality of life and the work environment for all staff in the school building. It makes a school welcoming to families and our wider community. For schooling to be successful, each school must establish and maintain a positive

school culture that supports all its members—students, families, and staff—as they work together to grow, both socially and academically.

Unless otherwise indicated, this Code applies to all students, Board members, District staff, parents, visitors and other persons on school property or attending any school function, and applies to behavior.

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

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

- President Barack Obama

Student and Personal Electronic Devices

The Board adopted policy 5695 on July 31, 2025.

As required by Education Law §2803, this policy prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day (including all classes, homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time) on school grounds (any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the boundary of a school or district or BOCES facility), unless under an exception (i.e., IEP/Section 504 or as permitted below). Students are discouraged from bringing electronic devices to school.

The Board recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices that can perform different functions. Such devices include “internet-enabled devices” defined as: any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications, but do not include any such device supplied by the District for educational purposes. These devices can create significant distraction to the school environment, negatively impact student mental health, contribute to disciplinary infractions, and reduce student engagement.

Additionally, in an emergency, the use of personal electronic devices can distract students from following the directions of staff or emergency responders, contribute to the spread of misinformation, create congestion in the emergency response system, and interfere with the District's emergency response protocols.

Parents and students should refer to the school for procedures on device storage, and should contact the school for emergencies related to this policy.

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





Board of Education Meetings

WHEN ARE BOARD MEETINGS: The Board of Education meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm for Board work sessions and the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm for Board business meetings. Visit www.rcsdk12.org/boe for the Board's most up to date schedule.

WHERE ARE BOARD MEETINGS HELD: Unless otherwise specify, all Board meetings can be accessed in-person at 131 West Broad Street, 14614 in Conference Room 3A/3B, or online at www.rcsdk12.org/youtube or www.rcsdk12.org/rcsdtv.

WHERE ARE BOARD MEETING MATERIALS: All Board meeting agendas and minutes can be found at www.rcsdk12.org/boarddocs. Meeting materials are typically available at least two days prior to the meeting.

SPEAKER FORUMS: The Board values meaningful input from the community on matters under consideration, as such input can directly inform Board discussions and decision-making. To facilitate this, starting September 2025, the Board will convene a monthly speaker forum dedicated to receiving public comments specifically related to items on the committee meeting, monthly work session, and other public Board meeting agendas established for the month. These forums will be held at 5:30 pm on the third Tuesday of every month. An individual may register to speak and/or submit a written comment by contacting the Board of Education office by noon of the day of the meeting, by calling (585) 262-8525 or emailing boardofeducation@rcsdk12.org. The following information must be included: name, telephone number, email address, home address, affiliation (student, parent, community member or staff) and the topic on which the individual wish to speak on. 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. **Excluding public hearings, Speaker Forums will be the only opportunity for the community to address the Board at a meeting.**

We're on the Web!

www.rcsdk12.org/boe

Board Upcoming Public Events

- ⇒ Tuesday, September 9, 2025: *Work Session (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, September 16, 2025: *Speaker Forum (5:30 pm)*
- ⇒ Thursday, September 25, 2025: *Business Meeting (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, October 14, 2025: *Work Session (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Wednesday, October 15, 2025: *Hispanic Heritage Recognition (5:30 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, October 21, 2025: *Speaker Forum (5:30 pm)*
- ⇒ Thursday, October 30, 2025: *Business Meeting (6:00 pm)*

Become a Parent or Student Advisor

Starting January 2026, Parent Advisors and Student Advisors serving in an advisory capacity to monthly Board Work Session may be appointed in alignment with exhibit 2300-E3. The Board recognizes the role that parents and students play in our school communities and requests that parents and students play an active part in the fiscal oversight and accountability functions of the Board.

WHO CAN SERVE?

Interested Parents: Only parents and legal guardians of students currently attending the Rochester City School District who are not employees District will be allowed to serve.

Interested Students: Only students currently attending a Rochester City School District school, in grades 8th through 12th, having good academic standing, and on track to graduate will be allowed to serve.

For more information and how to apply, visit www.rcsdk12.org/boerep.

CONTACT US:

Rochester Board of Education
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: 585-262-8525
Fax: 585-262-8381

Email: boardofeducation@rcsdk12.org

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WORD BANK

BOARD	RCSD	STUDENTREP
SEVEN	VOTE	COMMISSIONER
READING	MATH	GOALS